Greek and Turkish in contact: An excursus to two contact-induced varieties

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Part I: Rhodian Muslim Greek (& Turkish)¹

1. Introduction

This research aims at:

- exploring aspects of the linguistic repertoire of the bilingual in Greek and Turkish Muslim community of Rhodes,
- examining the structure of a Greek-based pidgin variety used by members of this community,
- describing the structure of this Greek-based pidgin variety with emphasis on the structural interference from Turkish and the sociolinguistic parameters of its use.

We also present some instances of interference of Greek to the Turkish variety used by these speakers.

(See also Georgalidou, Spyropoulos & Kaili 2004 and Georgalidou, Kaili & Celtek 2005)

About the community:

- ✓ Muslims of the island of Rhodes are Greek citizens of Turkish origin who have been living in the island since 1522.
- ✓ They mainly resided in the castle -today's Old Town- but smaller groups also settled in the country and engaged in farming.
- ✓ From 1522 till 1912 Dodecanese was part of the Ottoman Empire and the people of Turkish origin, or the Ottomans as some people even today call themselves, were the dominant group.

¹ The data sets and the analysis presented in this handout are drawn from Georgalidou, Spyropoulos, Kaili, Revithiadou & Celtek (2007, to appear) and is part of a research project on the sociolinguistic identity of the Muslim Community in Rhodes launched by Dr. Marianthi Georgalidou (University of the Aegean) and Hasan Kaili (University of the Aegean). The original research team was further extended with Dr. V. Spyropoulos (University of the Aegean/University of Athens), Dr. A. Revithiadou (University of the Aegean/ AUTh) and Dr. A. Celtek (University of the Aegean).

- ✓ In 1912 the Italians occupied the Dodecanese islands and the Ottomans (/Turks) were recognized as a religious community (1912-1943).
- ✓ They became Greek citizens after the annexation of the Dodecanese islands to Greece in 1947.
- ✓ The community being under the Italian occupation was not covered by the Treaty of Lausanne, but special status was acknowledged to it with respect to the Vakf and the schools.
- ✓ The teaching of the Turkish language in Muslim schools was *de facto* abolished in 1972 (Tsitselikis & Mavrommatis 2003).

Today:

- ✓ Estimated population: 2500-3000 people leaving in the island of Rhodes. (There is also a big community in the island of Kos).
- ✓ Muslim students of Turkish origin attend public schools. Turkish is mainly used within the community, as it is not formally taught or used in (formal/informal) transactions with the Greek-speaking population of the island.
- ✓ As a consequence, in the last 60 years almost the entire Muslim community has shifted from near monolingualism (Turkish) to bilingualism (Turkish and Greek).
- ✓ Older speakers, who are fluent in the local variety of Turkish, also use a pidgin variety of Greek (i.e., a contact vernacular, in the sense of Winford 2003: 236), based on the local Greek dialect of Rhodes with substantial interference from Turkish. Later generations use a variety of Greek with less traces of interference (named here the intermediate variety). This interference fades away to and is gradually replaced by Greek in the younger generation of speakers.
- ✓ There are different proficiency levels in Turkish among members of the community.
- ✓ Monolingualism in Greek has traditionally been the case for all members of the subgroup of Muslims of Cretan origin, as well as for Muslims that originate from specific rural areas with low population of Turkish origin.
- ✓ The shift towards native Greek varieties in urban settings precedes the shift in suburban and rural settings by one generation. This tendency is reinforced by the attendance of monolingual state schools which introduce children to literacy in the Greek language from a very early age.
- ✓ Linguistic competence in Turkish among members of the children generation group is a matter that requires further investigation. All children in our data show a strong preference for Greek and a passive knowledge of Turkish.
- ✓ As a consequence, there are different proficiency levels in Turkish among members of the community depending on historical, social and individual factors.

The research procedure

We examine two subgroups of the Muslim minority community of Rhodes, one residing in the city of Rhodes and the other in a suburban settlement a few kilometers away from the city.

- ✓ Linguistic and social information were derived from participant observation carried out by two of the researchers (both Rhodian natives, one of them member of the minority community and a bilingual himself), which has been going on for more than three years.
- ✓ Linguistic data were collected/recorded mainly during "coffee time".

- ✓ The aim was mainly to collect linguistic data that would allow the analysis of patterns of language use by community members who belong to different age groups, so that they could be juxtaposed to the structure of their personal networks.
- ✓ The analysis is based on 20 hours of conversations with and among 17 speakers at the urban setting, members of 4 partially overlapping exchange networks (Milroy & Wei 1995) and 19 speakers at the suburban setting, all of them members of an overlapping kinship network that resides within a definable territory.
- ✓ The age span of the informants is as follows:
 - 13 speakers born between 1930 and 1954 who are now grandparents (6 in the suburban setting, 7 in the city) (grandparents generation)
 - 15 speakers born between 1955 and 1972 who are now parents (9 in the suburban setting, 6 in the city) (parents generation)
 - 8 speakers born between 1980 and 1990 who are the children and the grandchildren of the other two groups (4 in the suburban setting, 4 in the city) (children generation)

2. The pidgin variety

- ✓ <u>Substratum</u>: The Greek variety of Rhodes, which belongs to the South-Eastern dialectal group of Greek (Kontosopoulos 1994, Trudgill 2003).
- ✓ Interference: Phonological & morphosyntactic structure of Turkish.

Grammatical structures that exhibit interference from Turkish:

MORPHOLOGY

Structure 1: Confusion and/ or avoidance of gender marking by using the default gender value of neuter:

- (1) a. evyale to **peθameno**, troi take.out-past.3sq the-nt.acc dead-acc.sq eat-3sq 'S/he dug out the dead and ate him'
 - b. to iðia ora the-nt.sg same-fem.sg time-fem.sg 'at the same time'
 - proskalesume a (e)rti C. 0 xotzas subj come-3sg the-masc.acc xotza-nom.sg a-fem.sg subj invite-1pl vradi night-nt.sq 'Let us invite the xotza to come one night...'

- d. mia mera o liko endamose one-fem.nom.sg day-fem.nom.sg the-masc wolf meet-past.3sg me to alepu with the-nt.acc.sg fox-fem.acc.sg 'One day the wolf met the fox'
- ✓ Greek: Nominal elements are morphologically specified for gender (masculine, feminine, neuter). Gender is marked on the article of the noun phrase.
- (2) a. o kalos anθropos the-masc good-masc man-masc
 - b. i kali γineka the-fem good-fem woman-fem
 - c. to kalo peði the-nt good-nt child-nt
- ✓ Turkish: There is no gender marking.
- (3) a. iyi adam good man
 - b. iyi kadın good woman
 - c. iyi çocuk good child

<u>Structure 2</u>: Words consisting of a Turkish stem + Greek endings:

(4) xazmevo 'digest' ← xazm (< hazmetmek 'to digest') + evo

SYNTAX

Structure 3: Omission or inconsistent use of the article:

- (5) **γeneka** pjo arγa ekatse, nomizo, **antras** pjo γriγora woman-nom.sg more late sit-past.3sg think-1sg man-nom.sg more quickly 'The wife sat down later, I think, and the husband earlier'
- ✓ Greek: Nouns are modified by articles when definite or plural generic (Holton et al. 1997).
- ✓ Turkish: No articles (Lewis 2000, Göksel & Kerslake 2005).

<u>Structure 4</u>: No agreement between adjective and noun. Adjective in a fixed form of neuter nominative:

(6) a. **meγalo θia** big-**nt.nom.sg** aunt-**fem.nom.sg** 'the elder aunt'

- b. irte skilos ... pinasmeno ita come-past.3sq doq-nom.sq hungry-nt.nom.sq be-past.3sq 'The dog came ... it was hungry'
- ✓ Greek: The adjective agrees with the noun in number, gender and case (see example 2).
- ✓ Turkish: The adjective does not inflect, so no agreement can be observed (see example 3).

<u>Structure 5</u>: The syntax of NPs with a numeral: [NP numeral + noun in singular]:

- (7) ðio tria peretria iſe have-past.3sg two three-masc.acc.pl servant-fem.acc.sg 'S/he had a couple of servants'
- ✓ Greek: The noun agrees with the numeral in number:
- (8) ðio tris iperetries ixe have-past.3sg two three-fem.acc.pl servant-fem.acc.pl 'S/he had a couple of servants'
- ✓ Turkish: Numeral + Noun-singular:
- (9) iki üç kitap aldım two three book buy-past-1sg 'I bought a couple of books'

Structure 6: Verb final word orders:

- (10)afto nomizi xotza a. it-nt.nom.sg think-3sg xotza-masc.acc.sg be-3sg 'S/he thought that it was the xotza...'
 - sineteros b. tu erkete partner-nom.sg cl:3-masc.sg come-3sg 'his partner came'
 - C. aftos epese ke eneka epese, he-masc.nom.sg fall-past.3sg and woman-fem.nom.sg fall-past.3sg orea kimunte well sleep-3pl 'He went to bed and his wife went to bed and they slept well'
- ✓ Greek: Free word-order with predominant the SVO and VSO orders. Greek is a head initial language.
- ✓ Turkish: A head final language with SOV as the predominant order.

<u>Structure 7</u>: Omission of adpositions which mark the syntactic functions of indirect object and locative:

(11) a. en imba mayazi tu eγο neg enter-past.1sg shop-acc.sg cl:3-masc.gen.sg l-nom.sg | Gr: sto mayazi tu 'l didn't enter his shop'

b. spiti tu itan **ðipla minare**house-nom.acc cl:3-masc.gen.sg be-past.3sg next minaret
| **Gr: sto minare**'His house was next to the minaret'

c. ipe γineka tu eγo a **pao kinii** say-past.3sg woman-acc.sg cl:3-masc.gen.sg l fut go-1sg hunting-acc.sg | **Gr: sto kiniγi** 'He told his wife "I will go hunting"'

- ✓ Greek: Locative and indirect object functions are marked by the preposition se 'in, to'.
- ✓ Turkish: Locative and indirect object functions are marked by locative and dative endings on the noun.

<u>Structure 8</u>: Postpositions instead of prepositions:

- (12) ulo ruxa evale **nero mesa** all-nt.sg.acc clothes-nt.acc.pl put-past.3sg water-acc.sg inside 'She put all the clothes in the water'
- ✓ Greek: Head initial language → prepositions
- ✓ Turkish: Head final language → postpositions

<u>Structure 9</u>: Omission of the subjunctive marker *na* in subordinate subjunctives:

- (13) a. **siko@ike xeretisi** mazi mbamba stand.up-past.3sg greet-3sg with father-acc.sg 'He stood up in order to greet (somebody) with his father'
 - b. **arkinikse munta** start-past.3sg attack-3sg 'It started attacking (her)'
- ✓ Greek: Subordinate clauses may employ subjunctive verb groups (*na* + verb form).
- ✓ Turkish: Subordinate clauses employ either infinitive or verbal noun.

<u>Structure 10</u>: Omission of complementizers and conjunctions:

- (14)ine... | Gr: aftos nomizi oti ine o xotzas afto nomizi xotza it-nt.nom.sg think-3sg xotza-masc.acc.sg be-3sg 'she thought that it was the xotza...'
- ✓ Greek: Subordinate clauses are introduced by the relevant complementizer or conjunction.
- Turkish: No complementizers (with the exception of *ki*). Structure 11: Confusion in the syntax of exo 'have' and iparxi 'there is':
- (15)iſe antropo, peðia a. enan en iſe, have-past.3sg a-masc.acc.sg man-acc.sg child-acc.pl neg have-past.3sg paraγio, oreo iſe have-past.3sg apprentice have-past.3sg nice-nt.acc.sg shop-nt.acc.sg 'There used to be a man, who had no children, (but) he had an apprentice (and) he had a nice shop'
 - lamba b. iſe palia lamb-acc.sg have-past.3sg past(adv) 'In the past, there existed/used to be lambs'
- ✓ Greek: Two different verbs for each construction:
 - possessive construction: verb exo 'l have'
- (16)exo/exis/exi/exume/exete/exun ena kipo have-1sg/2sg/3sg/1pl/2pl/3pl a-acc.sg garden-acc.sg
 - existential construction: verb iparxi 'there is'
- (17)kipos iparxi enas a. there.is a-nom.sg garden-nom.sg
 - iparxun poli kipi b. there.are many-nom.pl garden-nom.pl
- ✓ Turkish: *var* for both the existential and possessive constructions:
 - Possessive :
- (18)bir bahçe-m/-n/-si/-miz/niz/-leri var a garden-1sg/2sg/3sg/1pl/2pl/3pl HAVE
 - existential:
- (19)bir bahçe var a garden there is
 - çok bahçe var b. many garden there is

<u>Structure 12</u>: Absence of weak pronouns (pronominal clitics):

- (20) a. evγale to peθameno, troi take.out-past.3sg the-nt.acc.sg dead-acc.sg eat-3sg 'S/he dug out the dead and ate (him)'
 - b. alá îxe brostá sto rofúdzo miá
 but have-past.3sg in.front to-the-nt.acc.sg shelter-acc.sg one-fem.acc.sg
 γramiθiá, tésera átoma agaliázane étsi
 oak tree-fem.acc.sg four-nt.nom.pl man-nt.acc.pl embrace-past.3pl so

'But there used to be an oak tree in front of the shelter, which four men could embrace it'

- ✓ Greek: Weak pronouns (clitics) are used to refer back to something present in the discourse:
- (21) efera ta vivlia ke ta evala bring-past.1sg the-nt.acc.pl book-nt.acc.pl and cl:nt.3.acc.pl put-past.1sg sto trapezi on-the-nt.acc.sg table-nt.acc.sg
 'I brought the books and put them on the table'
- ✓ Turkish: Strong pronominal form or no pronoun is used to refer back to something present in the discourse:
- (22) kitapları getirdim ve masaya koydum book-pl-acc bring-past-1sg and table-dat put-past-1sg 'I brought the books and put (them) on the table'

PHONOLOGY

Structure 13: Intervocalic /k/ voising and /g, γ / deletion (productive, categorical):²

(23) intervocalic voicing and deletion

a. ce^{y} enéka ce^{y} inéka (Rh.Gr) 'and woman' b. a^{y} ámis na kámis (Rh.Gr) 'do-2sg.subj.pres'

c. xrónja ^valatás xrónja valatás (Rh.Gr) 'for many years he was a milkman'

(24) intervocalic deletion

a. élee éle(γ)e (Rh.Gr) 'say-3sg.past' b. aníi aní(j)i (Rh.Gr) 'open-3sg.pres'

✓ Greek: Intervocalic voiced fricative (e.g. /v, δ , γ /) deletion is a widespread phenomenon in the dialects of the Dodecanese, and, especially, in the dialect of Rhodes

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² All speakers have it.

(Papachristodoulou 1986). The rule is attested in the speech of our informants as well. However, intervocalic /y, g/ deletion applies to domains larger than the word, as shown by the examples in (23). This way it contrasts with intervocalic fricative deletion of the type attested in the dialect of Rhodes, which is limited to the domain of the phonological word, e.g. foume /fovume/, elee /eleve/. More importantly, the rule applies to delete velars which are the product of intervocalic voicing (23b). It is likely that language contact in this respect was assisted by the existence of a similar rule in the substratum of the Rhodian variety.

✓ Turkish intervocalic voicing and deletion:

(25)çocuk-l çocuğu [t[odʒuu] a. Child-acc 'the child'

> b. jinekolog-A jinekoloğa [ʒinekoloa] gynecologist-dat 'to the gynecologist'

Structure 14: Interdental and velar fricatives \rightarrow stops, especially before another C or word initially (variation).³

(26)	a.	télo	θélo (St.Gr)	'want-1sg.pres'
	b.	migdala	amiyðala (St.Gr)	'almond-nom.pl'
	C.	fév _j i	févji (St.Gr)	'go away-3sg.pres'
	d.	érkete	érçete (St.Gr)	'come-3sg.pres'
	e.	otomanós	oθomanós (St.Gr)	'Ottoman-nom.sg'

✓ Turkish lacks fricatives.

Structure 15: Vowel harmony -- restricted to the first two or last two syllables of the word (unproductive):

(27)	a.	jenéka	jinéka (St.Gr)	'woman-nom.sg'(initial)
	b.	zúlja	zilja (St.Gr)	'envy-nom.sg' (final)

Cf. Cappadocian and Megisti Greek⁴ (Revithiadou et al. 2005):

(28)initial domain harmony

tsunúrjo cenúrj-o 'new' Meg, P105 a. 'liturgy' Meg, P105 luturja litur_i-á b. 'basin' Sil, Ko30 lakáni lekán-i C. 'first toe' Sil, Ko30 d. mayalóna meyalón-a

³ Just a few examples in all the speakers examined.

⁴ The Megisti data are drawn from Pantelis (2002) and the Silly data are drawn from Kostakis (1968).

(29) final domain harmony

a.	águra	á _Ŧ ir-a	'anchor' Meg, P102
b.	sutsá	sic-á	'fig tree' Meg, P108
C.	fúma	/fim-a/	'fame' Meg, P102
d.	ómurxa	/ómixl-a/	'mist' Sil, Ko61

3. The intermediate variety

- ✓ The most persistent interferences are those related to (a) gender confusion, (b) head final constituent order (SOV orders and postpositions), (c) special lexical items (var constructions and words with a Turkish stem and Greek endings) and (d) absence of weak pronouns.
- ✓ The specific status of each of the structures with interference
 - Structure 1 (gender marking): limited to a partial gender confusion
 - Structure 2 (Tk stem+Gr sfx): attested
 - Structure 3 (no article): disappears
 - Structure 4 (no agreement): disappears
 - Structure 5 (Num+N_{sq}): disappears
 - Structure 6 (verb final): limited to copula, existential and possessive constructions (the last two correspond to var constructions)
 - Structure 7 (omission of adpositions in ind.obj & loc): disappears
 - Structure 8 (postpositions): attested
 - Structure 9 (no subj na): limited
 - Structure 10 (no compl/conj): limited
 - Structure 11 (exo/yparxi): limited to partial confusion
 - Structure 12 (no pron.clitics): attested
 - Structure 13 (intervocalic fricative deletion): attested (productive)
 - Structure 14 (stops instead of fricatives): limited appearance (variation)
 - Structure 15 (V-harmony): almost disappeared
- ✓ An additional interference: uvular /q/ before the back low vowel /a/:

(29)	a.	qátsane	kátsane	'sit-past.3pl'
	b.	qafé	kafé	'coffee-nom.sg'
	C.	vriqane	vrikane	'find-past.3pl'
	d.	miqrá	mikrá	'small-nom.pl'
	e.	gárvuna	kárvuna	'coal-nom.pl'

(30) Turkish

a. kahve [qavé] 'coffee'b. kar [qar] 'snow'

4. Interference of Greek to Turkish

See Georgalidou et al. 2007, Celtek & Kaili 2010, Kaili et al. in press.

o <u>Idiom transfer:</u> Some idioms used in Greek are directly translated to Turkish. However, these idioms are not used in the same way in Standard Turkish.

(31)a. Rhodian Turkish: telefon al-mak

telephone take-inf

b. Greek: perno tilefono

> take-1sg telephone-acc.sg 'I make a phone call'

Standard Turkish: telefon et-mek C.

> telephone make-inf 'to make a telephone call'

(32)Rhodian Turkish: ayak-la git-mek (Kaili et al. in press) a.

> foot-instr go-inf 'to go on foot'

b. Greek: pao me ta poðia

go-1sg with the-nt.acc.pl leg-nt.acc.pl

'I go on foot'

Standard Turkish: yürüyerek git-mek C.

walk-ger go-inf

The following interferences of Greek to Turkish are related to the structures that exist in Turkish but are not realized in the same way in Greek.

o Avoidance of the question particle *-ml*:

(33)Standard Turkish a.

> Ders-ler-in-i yap-tı-n mı?

lesson-pl-2sg.poss-acc study-past.2sg mi?

b. Rhodian Turkish

> Ders-ler-in-i yap-tı:-n? lesson-pl-2sg.poss-acc study-past.2sg? 'Did you do your homework?'

Rhodian Greek C.

> ekanes matimata ta do-past.2sg the-nt.acc.pl homework-acc.pl cl:2-gen.sg 'Did you do your homework?

- ✓ Greek: Yes/No questions are formed with a special intonation contour, not with a special particle.
- ✓ Turkish: Yes/No questions are formed with the question marker –ml.

Note: Contact varieties of Greek (e.g. Pontic, Cappadocian, Silly, Farasa, etc.) provide evidence for this type of transfer. As illustrated by the following examples, the Turkish question particle is extensively used to render yes/no questions in all these systems.

• Ophis Pontic (Nea Trapezounta): -mi

- (34) a. efaikses mi ta zá? Dawkins 1914: 5 feed-past.2sg Q the animal-acc.pl 'Did you feed the animals?'
 - b. aúto to yomár^j ki pulis me mi? Dawkins 1931: 109,13 this the mule-acc.sg neg sell-2sg cl:1-acc.sg Q 'Don't you sell this mule to me?'
- (35) a. éfaes mi? IV_III_165 eat-past.2sg Q 'Have you eaten?'
 - b. éfaes mi simera? EV_III_167 eat-past.2sg Q today? 'Have you eaten today?'
 - <u>Cappadocian</u> (Anastasiadis 1976: 256) (-ml is subject to V-harmony)
- (36) a. efaγez mi? Axos eat-past.2sg Q 'Have you eaten?'
 - b. éferes ta mı? *Ulaghatsh* bring-past.2sg cl:3-nt.pl.acc Q 'Have you brought them?'
 - Silli (Dawkins 1916: 60-61, Anastasiadis 1976: 256) (-ml is subject to V-harmony)
- (37) éklepsiz mî ta îtu? steal-past.2sg Q cl:3-nt.pl.acc aux 'Have you stolen them?
 - Pharasa (Anastasiadis 1976: 256) (-ml is subject to V-harmony)
- (38) mi se ðókan ta f∫ókka mu ma? Q cl:2-acc.sg hit-past.3pl the boy-nom.pl cl:1-sg.gen Q 'Did my boys hit you?'

o Use of the past morpheme -DI instead of the evidential marking morpheme -mIş in situations where the event described by the utterance has not been eye-witnessed by the speaker.

(39)a. Standard Turkish

> Anneanne-m bu okul-da oku-muş.

grandmother-1sg.poss this school-loc study-ev⁵/past.3sg

b. Rhodian Turkish

> oku-du. Anneanne-m bu okul-da grandmother-1sq.poss this school-loc study-past.3sq

'My grandmother has studied at this school.'

✓ Greek: It lacks evidential marking.

✓ Turkish: Evidential past is marked with the morpheme –m/s.

5. Results - Conclusions - Extensions

Table 1: The linguistic repertoire of the community

	•	Pidgin	intermediate	native (in Greek)
	grandparents			
suburban	parents			
	children			V
	grandparents			
Urban	parents			
	children			

Comments:

- ✓ The dominant Greek varieties quickly replace the pidgin variety used by older speakers.
- ✓ There is a difference in the linguistic repertoires of the grandparents and parents generations in relation to the urban vs. suburban setting. Grandparents and parents generations in urban settings have already abandoned the pidgin variety and progressed to the intermediate and native Greek varieties respectively.
- ✓ The younger generation in both groups (i.e., speakers bellow 30) exhibit native proficiency in Greek (and a variable degree of proficiency in Turkish).
- ✓ Concerning other aspects of the linguistic repertoire of this community, systematic code alternation is observed in the grandparent and parent generation groups in the urban networks, as well as in the parent generation group of the suburban network. Also, bilingual speakers switch to either Greek or Turkish to accommodate the addressee's preferred language or depending on the context of the interaction is performed (Georgalidou, Kaili & Celtek 2005).

Extensions for further research

✓ Examination of the Turkish variety of the island

⁵ According to Göksel & Kerslake (2005: 356), "when speakers are transmitting information that they have received verbally from any other source (oral or written), they give their statement evidential marking (EV). Use of evidential marking is not a matter of choice in Turkish. "

- ✓ Greek interference in Turkish
- ✓ In-depth examination of the grammatical properties of the pidgin variety
- ✓ Other living forms of the Greek-Turkish contact

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