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NICOLA GRANDI

Diphthongization

Diphthongization is the process by which a monophthong becomes a \rightarrow diphthong. There are two processes of diphthongization in Ancient Greek, both of which are diachronic (for a general discussion of the phenomenon, see Andersen 1972). The first results from the intervocalic loss of *w*, *y*, or *s*, which results in \rightarrow hiatus, i.e., two adjacent \rightarrow vowels in distinct syllables. They then fuse together to form one syllable, as illustrated by the word for 'child,' *páis* > *paîs* (see further Smyth 1956:§8D). Technically, this involves two monophthongs (*a*, *i*) becoming a diphthong (*ai*), but the term diphthongization is still used.

The second source of diphthongization in Greek is the second \rightarrow compensatory lengthening, according to which the vowel in the sequence /Vns/ becomes a diphthong; it is thought to have taken place at some point in the late second or early first millennium BCE. This outcome is restricted to \rightarrow Lesbian (see e.g. Voigt 1957, Blümel 1982) and \rightarrow Elean; in \rightarrow Attic, by contrast, the outcome is a lengthened monophthong. The diphthongization takes place in the feminine singular present active participle, e.g. phéroisa vs. phérousa < *phéronsa; the third person plural active indicative singular morpheme -oisi < *-onsi < *-onti (Att.-Ion. -ousi); the accusative plural of the *o*- and *ā*-stem nouns, where we find -ais instead of -ās; and lexical items such as paîsa 'all' < pánsa < *péh₂ntih₂ (cf. Att.-Ion. pâsa) and moîsa 'muse' < *monsa (Att.-Ion. moûsa).

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DAVID GOLDSTEIN

Diphthongs

A dipthong is a pair of \rightarrow vowels that occupy the same \rightarrow syllable. Thus two-syllable *diá* 'through' does not have a diphthong but one-syllable *paîs* 'child (nom.)' does. Classical Attic has an inventory of eleven diphthongs (see generally Allen 1987:79–88; for a diachronic overview see Rix 1992:46–49, 51–52):

"Short" Diphthongs		"Long" Diphthongs	
/yi/ <ʋเ>		/ɛːi/ <ŋı>	/ɛːu/ <ŋʊ>
/oi/ <ot></ot>	/εu/ <ευ>	/ɔːi/ <ɯ̃l>	/ɔːu/ <ωυ>
/ai/ <¤l>	$/au/<\alpha v>$	/ari/ <αι>	$/a:u/ <\alpha v>$

Most of the inventory is comprised of falling diphthongs, so called because their sonority drops, e.g., from high-sonority /a/ to low sonority /i/); since the mouth closes somewhat during falling diphthongs, they are sometimes called closing diphthongs as well. The exception to this in Greek is /y(:)i/, which contains two high vowels; this diphthong only occurs pre-vocalically in Attic, pre-consonantal /y(:)i/ being lost prehistorically. Beginning in the sixth century, however, the sequence begins to monophthongize to /uː/, as witnessed by e.g. huós 'son' for huiós (see further Allen 1987:81 n.54). The /u/ diphthongs preserve a genuine back /u/ and not /y/ (Allen 1987:80). At some point the offglide of the back diphthongs (*au*, *eu*, $\bar{e}u$) becomes a fricative; thus Modern Greek $|av|, |ev|, |iv| (\rightarrow Developments in$ Medieval and Modern Greek). Allen (1987:81-83) suggests that pre-vocalic diphthongs were articulated with a geminate offglide, e.g. <ou o> as [oyo].

The long diphthongs are in part inherited and in part the result of \rightarrow contraction (see Sihler