

# ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ANCIENT GREEK LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

## Volume 3 P–Z, Index

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ANNA NOVOKHATKO

## Truncation

Truncation is the shortening of a word or stem by removing part of it and leaving the rest intact. Simple cases from English include (personal names) Michael > Mike [maik], Christopher > Chris, Peter > Pete, Ronald > Ron, etc. There is some variation in the usage of the term; Joseph (2001:352), for instance, uses it to describe the reduction of phrases like 'Watergate affair' to simply 'Watergate'. See Zwicky and Pullum (1987), Spencer (1991) for general discussion and Benua (1995) for in-depth discussion of truncation across languages.

Truncation in Ancient Greek is not a productive word-formation process. There are two main contexts in which it is found. The first, and most common, is in → personal names. In Mycenaean, for example, we find *pe-ri-mo*, i.e., *Périmos*, beside *pe-ri-me-de*, i.e., *Perimédes*; and in alphabetic Greek *Eurusthéus* besides *Eurusthénēs* (see further Bechtel 1917; Landau 1958; Kamptz 1982; Morpurgo Davies 1999). Geminated consonants are routinely found among truncated personal names, as illustrated by *Díonnos* beside *Dionúsios* (Thompson 2007:680).

A second type of truncation is found in metrical contexts, and is argued to be motivated by prosodic exigency (→ Prosody). In Homeric Greek, for instance, Hackstein (2010:409; see also Hackstein 2002:195) claims that *protithéousin* becomes *prothéousin* at *Il.* 1.291, *dedoupéōtos dedoupótos* at *Il.* 23.679, and *propēphulákthe propulákthe* at *H. Hom. Ap.* 538, all via truncation.

Truncation is closely related to the phenomenon of partial → reduplication.

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DAVID GOLDSTEIN

## Tsakonian

Tsakonian (Tsak.) is an outlying, highly divergent Modern Greek dialect that is spoken today in a small mountainous area on the south-eastern edge of the region of Arcadia (Peloponnese). It is unique in that it is the only modern variety of Greek that does not have its origins in the Attic Ionic Koine (→ Koine, Origins of; → Koine, Features of; → Dialectology (*diálektos*), Ancient Theories of), but rather in the ancient Laconian dialect (→ Laconian, Messenian). It is often categorized as a separate language, as it is not inherently intelligible with SMGk. (see, for example, Voegelin & Voegelin 1977). Although today it has the status of a critically-endangered language, evidence from place-names and substrate material in local Modern Greek and Arvanitika dialects, as well as from historical sources and folklore, indicates that Tsakonian was once spoken over a wider area that included the eastern part of Laconia as far as Cape Maleas (for an analytical presentation of these facts see Liosis 2007; for a detailed discussion of the etymology of the name and the history of Tsakonia see Caratzas 1976). Tsakonian is divided into three subdialects: southern (S.Tsak.), northern (N.Tsak.), and the more distinct Tsakonian of the Propontis (Pr.Tsak.), which is now extinct, but which, according to Costakis (1951, 1979), was spoken by Tsakonian colonists from the 18th to the 20th c. CE near Gönen, Turkey. A fourth dialect, also extinct, which was possibly spoken

west of Monemvasia, has recently been proposed (Tzitzilis forthcoming a) based on the scraps of linguistic material and other geographical information given by the Turkish traveller E. Çelebi in 1668 (Dankoff 1991). Çelebi's material constitutes the first attestation of Modern Tsakonian, putting an end to a period of more than a thousand years from which we have no written evidence for its development, after the last references to Laconian by Hesychius in the 5th century CE.

The uniqueness of Tsakonian derives both from its exclusive innovations and from the → archaisms it has preserved. These innovations include, for example, on the level of → phonology, the change of [r] to [ʃ] in word-initial position or in second position in a consonant cluster, e.g. Ancient Gk. (A.Gk.) *rhúnkhos* > S.Tsak. [júk<sup>h</sup>o] 'nose', A.Gk. *metrô* > S.Tsak. [metʃú] 'to count'; on the level of morphology, the conversion to [i] of the old endings [on] and [os] of neuter → nouns, e.g. A.Gk. *kálon* 'wood' > S.Tsak., N. Tsak. [káli], A.Gk. *méros* 'share, part' > Tsak. [méri]; on the level of → syntax, the reversal of the verbal periphrasis in direct questions, e.g. S.Tsak., N. Tsak. [esi ðimúmene] 'you remember' but S.Tsak., N. Tsak. [ðimúmener ési] 'do you remember?', etc.

The archaic, and specifically → Doric / Laconian character of Tsakonian was noticed from very early on (Deffner 1880, 1881; Chatzidakis 1896, 1901, 1905; Scutt 1912–1913; Anagnostopoulos 1926, among others), although there was disagreement among researchers regarding the nature of the relationship between the two varieties (see, for example, Pernot 1934, who maintains that Tsakonian is descended from a variety of the Hellenistic Koine with a small number of Doric elements). The following characteristics of the dialect, mainly involving → phonetics and vocabulary, have usually been ascribed to its Doric / Laconian origins:

- a. Preservation of Doric *ā* as [a] where the other Modern Greek dialects, including SMGk., have [i] < Att.-Ion. *ē* (Chatzidakis 1905:365), e.g. S.Tsak., N. Tsak. [máli] 'apple' < Dor. *málon*, cf. SMGk. μήλο [mílo] < Att. *mélon*. Tzitzilis (forthcoming a) adds that the [a] is also preserved in grammatical morphemes since it serves to distinguish nominal categories according to the position of the → accent, e.g. [prokseníta] but [proksenící] (both with the meaning 'match-maker').