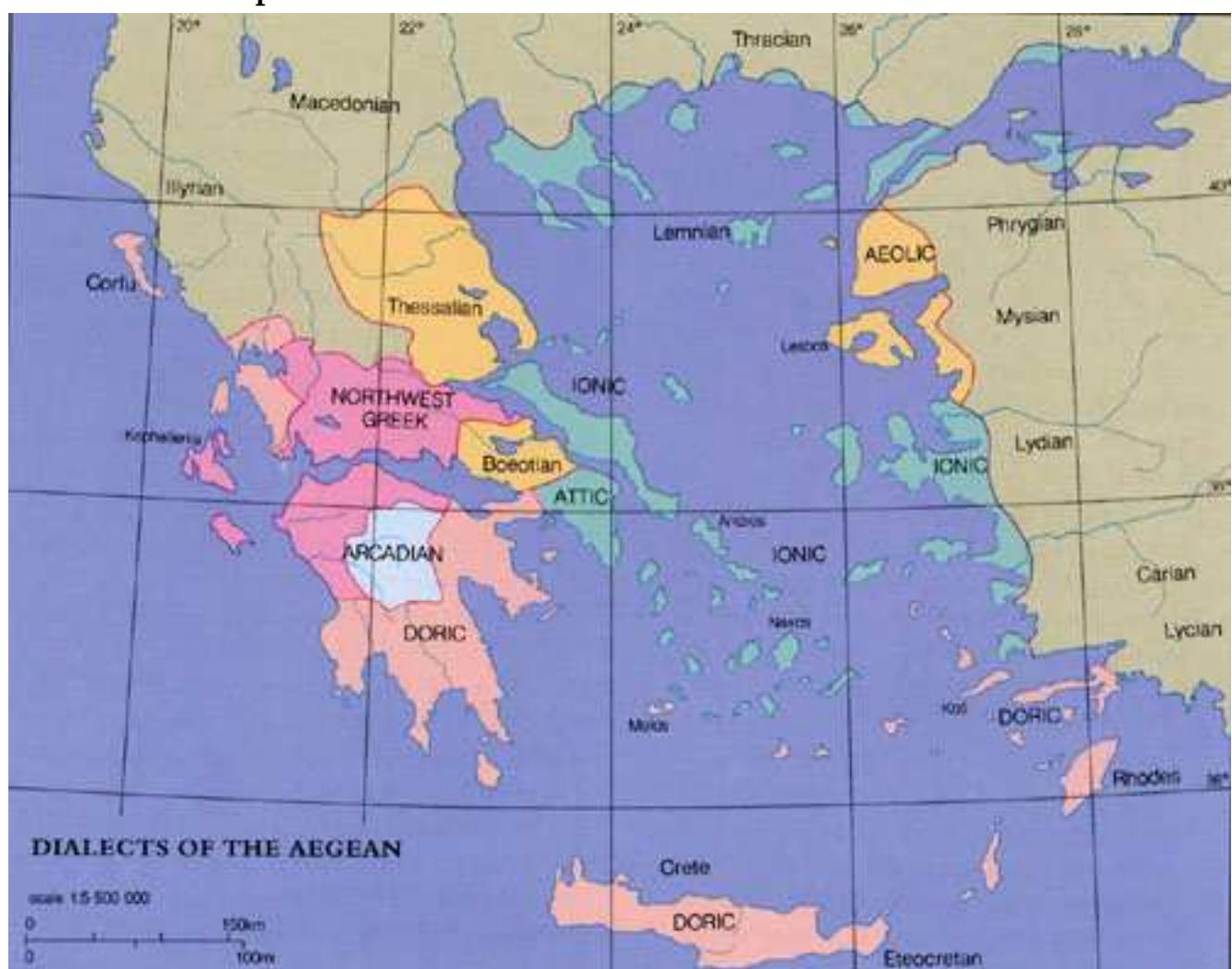


Lecture 2: The Dialects

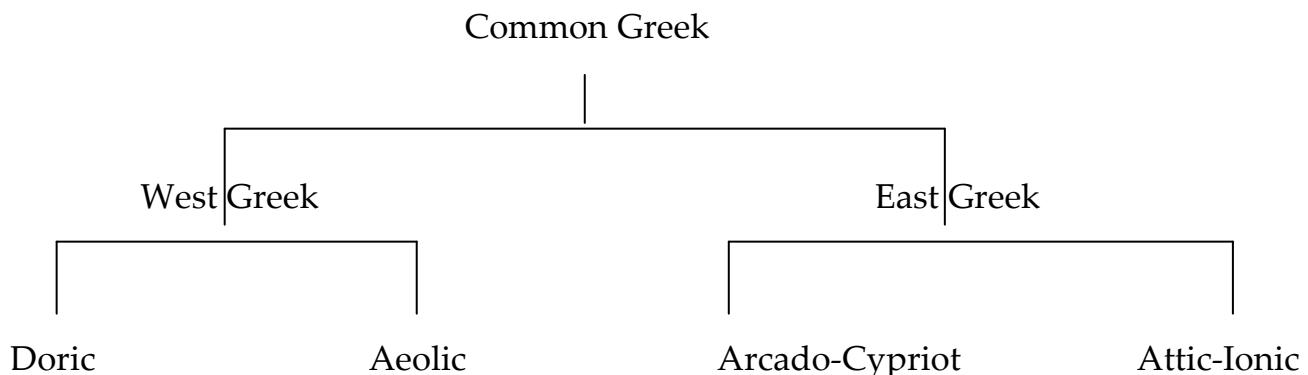
1. Introduction

- Homer's language a very odd mixture of dialects and time-periods
- Explanation given by Parry and Lord: he was an oral poet
- Oral poetry has different constraints from written poetry: poetry has to be comprehensible, but poet has to re-use material from the previous tradition
- Keeps traces of all the different dialects it has been performed in
- Elements of Arcado-Cypriot, Ionic, Aeolic and Attic in the poems
- Arcado-Cypriot could be more ancient ie Mycenaean
- Aeolic and Ionic elements are more recent
- Still debated whether there was a continuous Ionic tradition or one with a gap
- Attic elements = superficial – spelling added after the text was stabilised

2. Dialect map



3. Dialect relationship



4. Attic

- Previously many Atticisms claimed to be in the text
- Now reduced to a few, which do not affect the metre – aspiration and $\bar{\alpha}$ for η
 $\dot{\alpha}\gamma\xi\eta\varrho\acute{\alpha}\eta\eta\eta\eta\eta$ (cf Ionic $\dot{\alpha}\gamma\xi\eta\eta\eta\eta\eta$)
 $\dot{\epsilon}\nu\tau\alpha\tilde{\nu}\theta\alpha$ (cf Ionic $\dot{\epsilon}\nu\theta\alpha\tilde{\nu}\alpha$)
- Some aspiration unetymological e.g. $\dot{\eta}\mu\alpha\varrho$, $\dot{\eta}\mu\beta\varrho\sigma\tau\epsilon$

5. Aeolic

- West Greek
- Usually have an Ionic equivalent
 - $\ddot{\alpha}\mu\mu\epsilon\varsigma$ ($\eta\mu\mu\epsilon\varsigma$)
 - $\ddot{\epsilon}\mu\mu\epsilon\nu/\ddot{\epsilon}\mu\mu\epsilon\nu\alpha\iota$ ($\epsilon\tilde{\nu}\alpha\iota$)
 - $\pi\iota\sigma\upsilon\varrho\epsilon\varsigma$ ($\tau\acute{\epsilon}\sigma\sigma\alpha\varrho\epsilon\varsigma$)
 - $\ddot{\sigma}\pi\pi\omega\varsigma$, $\ddot{\sigma}\pi\pi\omega\epsilon\varsigma$ (by analogy with $\ddot{\sigma}\tau\tau\iota$)
 - $\zeta\alpha-$ for $\delta\alpha$ in $\zeta\alpha\theta\epsilon\o\varsigma$
- Dative plural in $-e\sigma\sigma\iota$
- Found on Aeolic stems but also Ionic stems ($\nu\acute{\epsilon}\epsilon\sigma\sigma\iota$) and artificially lengthened stems ($\dot{\epsilon}\pi\acute{\epsilon}\epsilon\sigma\sigma\iota$) - mixture

6. Ionic

- Ionic = main ingredient in the Homeric language
- Ionic an East Greek dialect
- Differences between West Greek and East Greek

	West Greek	East Greek
3 rd person singular	keeps τι	τι > σι
plural article	τοι	οι
1 st person plural	μες	μεν
athematic infinitive	μεν	ναι, εναι

- Attic-Ionic features:

1. Eta for original long alpha
2. ν-mobile (ξλυσεν)
3. Quantitative metathesis
e.g. gen. sg. of a-stems: Epic Μενέλαος, Attic Μενέλεως
4. ἄν for κε
5. ἡμεις
6. Imperfect of verb to be: ἦν he was
 ἦσαν they were

- Ionic features

1. Absence of Attic contraction
2. Compensatory lengthening (e.g. ξεῖνος, κούρη)
3. Psilotic – but this mainly corrected in text – see above
4. σσ for ττ
5. Diektasis

Contract verbs show many peculiarities

ἡγᾶασθε for ἡγᾶεσθε; μνᾶα for μνᾶῃ

όρω for ὁραω; μνωντο for μνᾶοντο; ἥβωωσα for ἥβᾶουσα

Variations not unusual eg ὁρεω

Vowel assimilation – cf ἐτερος for ἀτερος?

Would expect it to be more common

Wackernagel's solution: diektasis

Original form αἰταεσθαι develops to αἰτιᾶσθαι

ᾱ covers 3 morae – needs to be stretched

= Ionic: ἀστυβωτην > ἀστυβοωτην

Attic = ἀστυβοητην

7. Development

- Aeolic and Ionic elements clearly organic: epics composed in both dialects
- Continuous Ionic tradition with borrowing versus the phase argument

- Evidence for phases:

Genitive of a-stem nouns.

Parry's theory: latest form which fits the metre will be used.

Ionic development of the genitive of a-stem nouns: $-\alpha\omega$, $-\eta\omega$, $\varepsilon\omega$.

We find the $-\alpha\omega$ (the common Greek form)

and $-\varepsilon\omega$ (the Ionic form with quantitative metathesis).

If we had continuous tradition we would expect to find $-\eta\omega$.

- Evidence against phases:

Heavy preponderance of Ionic elements suggests that the Ionic part of the development was very long.

Forms could have entered the language in various ways

- Conclusion: evidence on both sides – disagreement in the literature

Professor Horrocks against phases ('Homer's dialect' in Morris and Powell (edd.) *A new companion to Homer*)

See <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/1998/98.5.20.html> for the opposite view from Janko

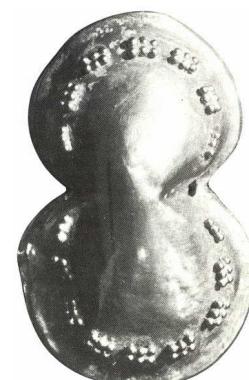
8. Arcado-Cypriot/Mycenaean

- Earliest form of Greek = Mycenaean, from palaces destroyed about 1200 B.C.



- Many of the words claimed to be Arcado-Cypriot found on the Mycenaean tablets:
 - ἀμφιφορεύς a-pi-po-re-u
 - κόρυς ko-ru
 - ξίφος xi-si-pe-e
 - φάσγανον pa-ka-na
- Not all found (e.g. αἴσα, ἡπυω), but this could be due to the nature of the texts.
- Dialect knowledge of the time restricted – could be from another ancient dialect
- But Mycenaean elements appear in formulas:

φάσγανον ἀργυροήλον or	
ξίφος ἀργυροήλος	19 times
#ἀσπίδος ἀμφιβρότης	3 times
σάκος ἥψτε πύργον#	3 times



- Dactylic formulae are as old as the weapons they describe?
- Also digamma – see next lecture

9. Pre-Mycenaean

- Clear linguistic evidence for elements earlier than Mycenaean.

Tmesis

- In Homer 'preverb' is often separated from its verb
e.g. Il. 6.496 θαλερὸν κατὰ δάκρυ χέουσα 'pouring down fruitful tears'
- In Classical Greek these are 'univerbated' e.g. καταβαῖνω
- In Homer, always in certain positions:
e.g. first in clause
Il. 12.335 ἐς δ' ἐνόησ' Αἴαντε δύω
just before direct object as in Il. 6.496
- This pattern is seen also in Sanskrit
e.g. 10, 34, 2d ánuvratām ápa jāyám arodham
devoted away wife I-have-driven
- In Mycenaean the univerbation seen in Classical Greek has already happened
e.g. PY Fr 1184 ko-ka-ro a-pe-do-ke e-ra₃-wo (=ἀπεδωκε)
PY Ad 686 ... ko-wo o-u-pa-ro-ke-ne-to (=παρογένετο)
- In some lines, the preverb and verb are written as separate words.
e.g. PY Ta 641 ti-ri-po...a-pu ke-ka-u-me-no ke-re-a₂ (= ἀπὺ κεκαυμένος)
- Mycenaean at the final stage of univerbation. Almost fully compounded
- Tmesis in Homer shows that tradition started pre-Mycenaean
- Not all formulas with tmesis are necessarily archaic – possibility could be exploited by bards

Syllabic r –next lecture

Reading List

- Chantraine, 1974 *Grammaire Homérique* (5th ed.) vol. 1 Introduction
 J. Chadwick, 1990 'The descent of the Greek epic' *JHS* 110, 175-177
 Shipp, 1961 'Mycenaean evidence for the Homeric dialect?' *Essays in Mycenaean and Homeric Greek*, 1-14
 G. Horrocks, 1997 'Homer's dialect' in Morris and Powell (edd.) *A new companion to Homer*