

Thesis abstract

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Title *The phonological status of aspiration in Ancient Greek*

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Summa cum Laude

In this thesis, I propose a phonological analysis of aspiration in Ancient Greek, crossing a large empirical investigation with phonetic and typological evidence from other languages. Three groups of problems are identified : the transparency and mobility of root-initial *h*, the systematic aspiration of root-initial *u* and *r*, and the aspiration dissimilation known as Grassmann's Law. For each of these problems, I give : 1/ a large empirical database including data from Classical Greek and diachronic data from Indo-European (epigraphic documents, metrics, Greek grammarians, Indo-European comparative grammar) ; 2/ a synchronic grammar of Ancient Greek ; 3/ an extension of this grammar to diachrony. I compare different theoretical frameworks and develop a formal grammar combining representations (Autosegmental Theory, Goldsmith 1976) and computation (Stratal OT, Bermúdez-Otero 2016). This grammar is consistent with the general architecture of the Greek language (morphology, prosody, phonemic contrast and phonetic reconstruction) and with the typology of similar phenomena.