

Toss out your old dictionary

NEOLOGISM: A NEWLY COINED WORD, EXPRESSION, OR USAGE

The Research Center for Scientific Terms and Neologisms in Athens has been hard at work keeping the Greek language up to date. The center recently published approximately 500 new neologisms based from foreign-language words and phrases. A sampling on the photo on the right.

A few words about the Research Center for Scientific Terms and Neologisms

The Research Center for Scientific Terms and Neologisms was established under legislative Decree 4545/1966 with the name Bureau for Scientific Terms and Neologisms. According to presidential Decree 225/2003 it was renamed Re-

search Center for Scientific Terms and Neologisms.

The research purposes and mission of the Center are the following:

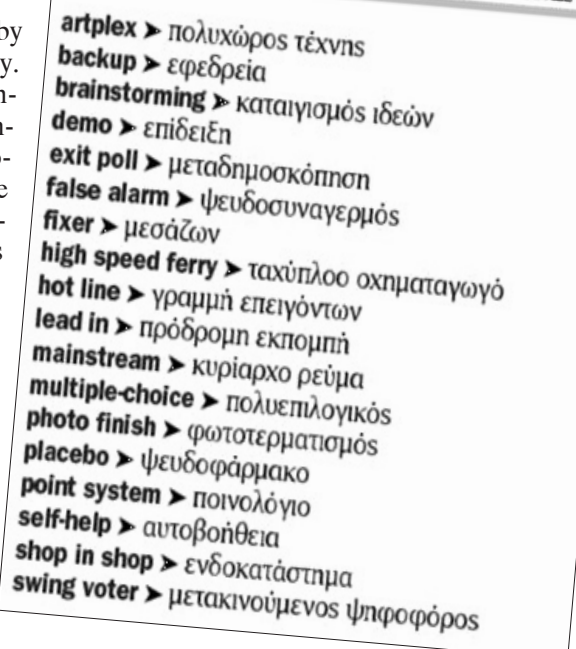
1. Linguistic inspection of the neologisms of the Modern Greek Language.
2. Rectification of erroneous Greek neologisms.
3. Replacement of foreign neologisms with Greek terms - provided that the foreign neologisms have not yet been widely adopted.
4. Suggestions for the proper use of the Greek language and the avoidance of erroneous terms and expressions.
5. Formulation in Greek of recent scientific terms in line with the new scientific achievements.

Before being adopted scientific ter-

minology must be accepted by the Greek scientific community.

To promote consensus the Center issues the Bulletin of Scientific Terminology and Neologisms. The bulletin presents the suggestions of the Center concerning new scientific terms and neologisms in the spoken language. The Greek neologisms are listed as either accepted or erroneous. Regarding the erroneous Greek neologisms, as well as not yet broadly adopted foreign ones, the Center offers new suggestions based on the proper use of the Greek language and its word formation mechanisms.

Ξενογλωσσικά νεολογισμοί... στην ελληνική



Modern Greek in the National Schools Curriculum

Member for Hindmarsh Steve Georganas and Member for Calwell Maria Vamvakinou yesterday called for Modern Greek to be offered in the new national schools curriculum currently being developed by the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority.

“We know that language education has a benefits trade, employment and education, and Greek is not only widely spoken in the Australian community but it has enormous historical, cultural and linguistic significance as well.” Steve Georganas said.

Greek is one of the top five languages other than English spoken in Australia, with more than 250,000 Australians stating in the 2006 Census that they spoke Greek at home. More than 356,000 Australians identified Greek heritage in the

same Census. “Greek is not only a significant community language in Australia – it is the language of great minds such as Plato, Aristotle, Homer and Hippocrates. Australians have personal, professional, historical, social and cultural ties to Greece” said Mr Georganas. Ms Vamvakinou said, “The inclusion of the

modern Greek language in the national curriculum is extremely important. It will strengthen the curriculum, making it more dynamic and relevant and more reflective of Australia’s existing multilingual capacity.”

“That’s why the Member for Hindmarsh and I have both spoken on this issue this week in Parliament and will continue to push for its inclusion in the new national schools curriculum.”

Steve Georganas MP Federal Member for Hindmarsh
Maria Vamvakinou MP Federal Member for Calwell



Monday, 22 February 2010 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH

Date Monday, 22 February 2010
Page 33
Questioner Speaker Georganas, Steve, MP
Source House Proof Yes
Responder Question No.

MR GEORGANAS (Hindmarsh) (9.45 pm)—I rise to speak in support of the United Nations International Mother Language Day and to talk about the importance of including the Greek language in Australia’s national schools curriculum. Last Sunday, 21 February 2010, marked the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation’s International Mother Language Day. The purpose of International Mother Language Day is to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

The benefits of a multilingual society cannot be understated. We know that improved language ability increases Australia’s ability to engage with the world through trade, education, employment and culture. The Australian government has already demonstrated its commitment to language education by providing \$52.4 million in funding over four years for the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program. This program will equip students to participate in an increasingly globalised world, where language will provide the tools to transcend social, political and economic borders.

More than five million Australians already speak a language other than English, with the top five languages other than English being Greek, Italian, Cantonese, Arabic and Mandarin. Growing up with Greek parents, I was fortunate to become bilingual at a very early age. We always spoke both English and Greek at home, and it was clear to me then, as it is now, that learning a language is not just about speaking and writing in different sounds and words; it is about lessons in history, culture, music, food and family as well. My ability to speak Greek has opened many doors for me both personally and professionally and it has enriched my life immeasurably. The Greek language has also been passed on to my sons, who are third generation Greek Australians. They learned their Greek both at home and at the bilingual school they attended, St George College, St George College is situated in Adelaide’s western suburbs and it offers students a wonderful opportunity to study Greek language, from reception right up to year 12, immersing them in the same culture which many my age just took for granted at home.

Encouraging schools to adopt early and continuous language education in our schools will not only provide an opportunity for Australians from every background

CHAMBER

The Hon Julia Gillard
Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I write to urge the inclusion of Greek as one of the languages in the new national schools curriculum currently being developed by the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

I understand that Associate Professor Angela Scarino of the University of South Australia is currently leading the development of the ‘shape paper’ for phase 2 development of the curriculum and that this paper is due to be released in mid 2010.

It is therefore timely that I write to outline the standing of Greek as a language of national, historic, cultural and community significance in Australia. More than 250,000 Australians speak Greek and more than 356,000 claim Greek heritage.

Greeks and Greek Cypriots are the seventh largest ethnic group in Australia and Australians born in Greece have the highest rate of retention of their mother tongue of all ethnic groups in Australia. Greek is one of the top five languages other than English spoken in Australia.

However, Greek is much more than a community language in Australia. It is the language of great intellectuals such as Plato, Aristotle, Homer and Hippocrates. The New Testament of the Bible was written in Greek. It is the only surviving heritage language of Europe, one which stretches back more than four thousand years and has supplied the English language with more than 25% of its words.

There is enormous support for Greek language teaching in Australian and the Greek community provide widespread and organized support for its continuation and offering at a national level. No doubt you would be aware of the substantial ongoing financial support the Greek government provides to Australia every year to support Greek language teaching.

I urge you to do all you can to ensure that ACARA gives full consideration to the inclusion of the Greek language as one offered under the new national schools curriculum.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Steve Georganas MP
Federal Member for Hindmarsh
23 February 2010

cc: Associate Professor Angela Scarino

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