

Europe, theology etc are all words of the Greek language, this great little language to paraphrase the Noble laureate Greek poet Odysseus Elytis.

H. It would be a cultural deficit for Australia if Greek is to be confined within its current spectrum and not be accessible nationally, in terms of universal education and culture. Especially, as the Greek language came to be not the exclusive property of the Greeks only, but of the entire humanity. This is also true on other languages of the human civilization like Latin which, in the progress of the time, receded from the schools and universities in the name of utilitarianism and linguistic internationalism. This is one more violation of the "moral" aspect of language and, at the same time, an inestimable loss for humanity and civilization. Defending the right for the "unnecessary" – which is usually the most essential part of life – is the only way for a man to fight against the ideology of utilitarianism.

I. Every national language constitutes the identity and the physiognomy of that nation. In the case of Greek the language transmits and creatively enriches all modern western languages as it remains the robust source for new words and concepts for these national languages. To fully understand the meaning and culture of 28,000 English words of Greek origin, it is necessary to know and study the Greek language and culture; otherwise it would be a Herculean task to understand the meaning of polis, police, politics, democracy, tyranny, tyrant, oligarchy, aristocracy just to mention some words from the field of politics. Whence, the acquisition of Greek is further enhancing the better understanding of English.

J. Greek as a Heritage Language, besides of aspects of use and utility, possesses another aspect, the moral one. Hence, the learning of Greek, apart from professional improvement in terms of income or social prestige etc., can provide

a better, more direct, profound and essential understanding of the people who speak it, who exist immersed in it.

K. The significance of Greek for Australia's external trade resides both in the actual and potential links with the European Union via Greece and Cyprus and via connections between Greece, Cyprus and the Greek-Australian community and in the fact that, among others, the Greek merchant marine transports the largest quantity of Australia exports across the globe.

L. As a result of the National Policy of Languages (1987), Greek was categorized as a "Language of Wider Teaching" and was protected as a second language by the Commonwealth and State Governments among eight other languages for teaching purposes. In September 1991, the Commonwealth of Australia identified 14 "priority languages" including Greek. Under the Commonwealth's Priority Languages Incentives Scheme education systems, the State and Territories selected eight languages each as the basis of funding support they received from the Commonwealth. Again Greek was defined "Priority Language" in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Northern Territory, as well as a Tertiary Entrance Language subject in all states and Territories, attracting approximately 41,000 students, of whom 32% were of non-Greek-background (Tamis, 2001 and 2008).

M. Surveying the range of state policies towards Greek across the Commonwealth, it is well attested a variety of degrees of divergence from the National Policy on Languages designation of Greek as a "language of wider learning" and use. Victoria, South Australia, Northern Territory and, to lesser extend, New South Wales appear the most favorably disposed to Greek language planning, teaching and learning and to have the most systematic program of imple-

mentation. These states offer their unequivocal commitment to upgrading the teaching from primary to senior secondary level and designate Greek a priority language. In the remaining States there is a marked discrepancy between a generally supportive policy and limited provision for implementation. Yet, in keeping with these policies or in spite of them, Greek is represented to differing extents in most systems and levels of education across Australia. Currently, the hallmark of provision for Greek is its diversity, diffusion and incoherence with competing systems, linkage between levels and problems of continuity within.

N. The Greek and Cypriot Australian communities remain exceedingly generous in their support of Greek language teaching at all three levels of education, endowing schools and tertiary institutions with bequests and financially priming for the establishment of Greek teaching and lectureships in Western Australia (Notre Dame), Northern Territory (University of Darwin), Victoria (La Trobe University), South Australia (Flinders University) and New South Wales (Macquarie University).

O. Greece is arguably the only home country of Australian citizens that contributes so generously and supports multifaceted types and schemes of language learning and teaching. In Victoria alone, more than 50 government and independent schools are being supported with teachers appointed by the Greek government, teaching material, professional development schemes and educational support programs by the Greek government estimated to an annual value of over AU\$3.5 million [approximately AU\$9,000,000.00 nationally]. This is a huge and unparalleled cultural investment by a foreign government towards the education of Australian taxpayers and their children. This generosity deserves the reciprocal attitude of the Australian Government by including Greek as one of the languages in the national curriculum

policy. The aforementioned specifics build the notion that it is imperative for the Commonwealth Government, in full alignment with its national policy on languages since 1987, to continue to consider Greek as a priority language within its new National Curriculum Policy on languages, given its role and paramount importance:

As a world heritage language;

As a source language for other world languages;

As a morally ideological as well as linguistically practical cornerstone for Australia;

For its communal and inter-communal role in Australia as a wider spoken, taught and learned language not only by students of Greek ancestry but also by non-Greek-background students (32%).

For its international economic role for Australia, since Greek is an official language of the European Union.

As the Australian language which is heavily and supported in an unparalleled fashion by the home country for the educational welfare of Australian citizens.

Our organization proposes with emphasis Greek as an ecumenical glossa for Australia's scholars, academics and students with enthusiasm and pathos. We apologetically call for a synod of dialogue and synthesis with you on this critical problem. The policy on ethnicities and pan-ethnic homophobia is based on the characteristic phenomenon of poly-glossia for the acme and progress of our democracy. We agonize to promote our ideas in an economic synergy and harmonizing practices with you, in an epoch of dynamism and a basic climate of eucharistics.

For and on behalf of the Hellenic Council Forum
Greek as part of the National Curriculum Policy Sub-Committee

Melancholia is 'a mental illness'

An Australian psychiatrist is attempting to have melancholia listed as a distinct disease of the mind after it was dropped from the psychiatrists' diagnostic manual for mental illness in 1980.

Gordon Parker, a professor of psychiatry at the University of NSW and director of the Black Dog Institute in Sydney, is leading a team of psychiatrists from around the world who want the ancient condition listed as an illness in its own right in the 2013 edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

Melancholia was originally described in the fifth and fourth centuries BC by the Greek physician Hippocrates, who identified sufferers as being plagued with ongoing "fears and despondencies".

In the late 20th century the illness fell out of favour with doctors and is now absent from the manual.

As a result, psychiatrists must choose between diagnosing major or minor depression for patients exhibiting signs of the disease.

However, Prof Parker said it was dangerous to prescribe drugs that were effective for depression for patients suffering from melancholia. The illness,

which affects people from birth and is not brought on by environmental factors, usually only responded to certain types of antidepressants or electroconvulsive therapy, he said.

Treating melancholic patients with psychotherapy or counselling did not help and often led to higher rates of suicide, he said.

"We believe that melancholia is a separate diagnosis, a separate condition that requires quite different treatment to most of the other depressive conditions that are able to be diagnosed," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

"The person's signs of concentration [are] quite distinct and impaired, so that they can't read something or concentrate on it," he said.

Sufferers also experience "retardation", in which

they lack the energy to complete normal daily tasks such as getting out of bed or having a shower.

About one third of patients exhibit delusional thoughts.

"They find their mood is lacking in any pleasure. They can't be cheered up, they can't look forward to anything."

The Black Dog Institute is about to embark on a study of three treatments for melancholia that will take three years and is currently calling for volunteers to take part in the trial.

"At the moment we feel that many treatments are just being given in a universal, non-specific way," Prof Parker said.

"We need a more rational model. What that will actually do to the sales of antidepressants is, I think, predictable, but not likely to be an expansion."

However, the move has faced some opposition.

Ian Hickie, the executive director of the Brain and Mind Institute, said there was not enough evidence to support the idea.

"It's an old idea that at the end of the day hasn't really stood up against other biological markers to show us different causes of depression and the ability of providing different treatments," he told the ABC.



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