The paper focuses on politeness devices occurring in the *Corpus of Greek Film Dialogue*, an extensive corpus of dialogues from 105 Greek films, spanning 9 decades (from 1932 to 2018, approx. 900,000 words in total). Following a corpus-based diachronic approach, keywords are identified for each decade. It appears that a prominent subset of keywords refers to a broad variety of linguistic mechanisms related to politeness. These include terms of address (e.g., κύριος ‘sir’, κυρία ‘madam’ etc.), familiarity markers like the interpersonal marker ρε (cf. Forchini 2013), taboo words (e.g., μαλάκας ‘wanker, jerk’), assertives like μάλι στά ‘malista’ (emphatic ‘yes’) and politeness markers such as παρακαλέ ‘please’ and o’νίστε ‘yes, please/here you are/excuse me’.

Findings point to a general trend towards more informal politeness devices, involving less hierarchical, conventional, and sexist terms and more intimate and offensive vocabulary. A late trend is also found towards items associated with negative politeness, which is considered non-typical for Greek culture (Sifianou 1992; Sifianou & Antonopoulou 2005). Although the vocabulary of film dialogues seems to remain relatively stable over time in Greek (Fragaki & Goutsos 2018), it is significant that similar findings concerning politeness have been reported in the literature on telecinematic discourse in other languages (e.g., Taylor 2004; Quaglio 2009; Bednarek 2012; McIntyre 2012; Formentelli 2014; Werner 2021), suggesting similar linguistic/cultural trends and/or the existence of a “universal filmese” (Levshina 2017). A comparison with reference corpora such as the spoken component of the *Corpus of Greek Texts* (Goutsos 2010) and the *Diachronic Corpus of Greek of the 20th century* (Goutsos et al. 2017) can be illuminating with respect to trends like these.

References


