Dionysis Goutsos (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece)

Politeness devices in film language
Diachronic evidence from the *Corpus of Greek Film Dialogue*

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., κύρι ε *'cirie* 'sir', κυρί α *ci'ria* 'madam' etc.), familiarity markers like the interpersonal marker ρε *re* (cf. Forchini 2013), taboo words (e.g., μαλάκας *ma'lakas* 'wanker, jerk'), assertives like μάλι στα *malista* (emphatic 'yes') and politeness markers such as *paraka'lo* ('please') and *o'riste* ('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.

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