INTRODUCTION

§1. The Greek Language and Its Dialects

The Greek language belongs to the Indo-European family of languages. The name "Indo-European" indicates the geographic area where these languages were originally spoken. The family includes most of the languages spoken in Europe, as well as those spoken as far east as ancient Persia, Afghanistan, and India. By the careful comparison of vocabulary, morphology, and syntax, scholars have shown that all these languages descended from a common ancestor that is called either **Indo-European (IE)** or **Proto-Indo-European (PIE)**, which was probably spoken some time in the fifth millenium B.C.E. (see figure 1). The people who spoke this original language are supposed to have gradually dispersed throughout Europe, Asia, and India, and the language over time changed differently in different places until the variety of languages belonging to this family gradually appeared.

No direct evidence, written or archaeological, survives either for PIE or for the people who spoke it. What is known of the language comes from the comparative study of the languages that descended from it. The study of these languages began at the end of the eighteenth century when Sir William Jones, a lawyer and student of eastern languages, first asserted publicly that Greek, Latin, and Sanskrit, the language of ancient India, were descended from a common source. The scientific study of the Indo-European languages began in the early part of the nineteenth century when Franz Bopp compared the forms of the verb in Latin, Greek, Sanskrit, ancient Persian, and the Germanic languages, of which English is one.

The Indo-European languages have been analyzed and divided into various subgroups, and Greek belongs to the subgroup called **Hellenic**. Hellenic comprises many varieties of ancient Greek, which are called *dialects,* for which written evidence has survived. The earliest Greek dialect for which there is surviving written evidence is **Mycenean**, which was written in a script called **Linear B**. Evidence for this language and this script has been found in several sites in mainland Greece and on Crete and dates from as early as the late fifteenth century B.C.E. For reasons that are still uncertain, Mycenean culture had experienced a sharp decline by the end of the thirteenth century B.C.E., and the Linear B script in which the Mycenean dialect was written ceased to be used.

No Greek writing survives from the next several centuries, but by the beginning of the eighth century B.C.E. a new alphabet was being used, and various forms of writing from this period onward are extant. Linguists now identify about two dozen dialects of Greek (see figure 2 for their geographical distribution), which are known from the thousands of inscriptions that survive, and al-

Uppercase	Lowercase	Name	Pronunciation
A	α	alpha	α (short) as the *first* **a** of a**w**ait (or as the **u** of **cup**)
			ā (long) as the **a** of **fa**ther
B	β	beta	as **b**
Γ	γ	gamma	as the **g** of **get**
			as the **n** of ba**n**k before γ, κ, ξ, or χ
Δ	δ	delta	as **d**
E	ε	epsilon	as the **e** of p**e**t
Z	ζ	zeta	as the **sd** of wi**sd**om
H	η	eta	as the **a** of l**a**te
Θ	θ	theta	as the **t** of **t**op or as the **th** of **th**eater
I	ι	iota	ι (short) as the **i** of b**i**t
			ī (long) as the **ee** of f**ee**t
K	κ	kappa	as **k**
Λ	λ	la(m)bda	as **l**
M	μ	mu	as **m**
N	ν	nu	as **n**
Ξ	ξ	xi	as the **x** of a**x**
O	ο	omicron	as the **o** of s**o**ft
Π	π	pi	as the **p** of to**p**
P	ρ	rho	as a rolled **r**
Σ, C	σ, ς, c	sigma	as the **s** of **s**oft
			as **z** before β, γ, or μ
T	τ	tau	as the **t** of coa**t**
Υ	υ	upsilon	υ (short) as the **u** of p**u**t
			ū (long) as the **oo** of f**oo**l
Φ	φ	phi	as the **p** of **p**eople or as the **f** of **f**eel
X	χ	chi	as the **c** of **c**at or as the **ch** of lo**ch**
Ψ	ψ	psi	as the **ps** of a**ps**e
Ω	ω	omega	as the **aw** of s**aw** or as the **o** of h**o**pe

OBSERVATIONS

1. Although in the most ancient manuscripts only the uppercase letters were used, modern editions of ancient works use the lowercase letters developed in the Middle Ages. Capital letters are used, however, for the first letters of proper names, the first letters of direct quotations with the exception of drama, and sometimes for the first letters of paragraphs.

2. Most of the Greek alphabet was derived from the Phoenician alphabet, and many of the names given to the Greek letters are derived from the Phoenician names for their letters. The names *epsilon, omicron, upsilon,* and *omega* were developed in the Middle Ages as the sounds they represented changed.[3]

3. The name for λ in common use today is *lambda,* but the classical name appears to have been *labda.*

4. The pronunciations given for long and short upsilon do *not* represent the sound of original At-

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3. *Epsilon* and *upsilon* mean, respectively, "ε written simply" and "υ written simply" (< ε or υ + ψῑλόν, "simple"). By the Byzantine period certain diphthongs (see below) were pronounced in the same way as these vowels, and *epsilon* and *upsilon* were developed to refer to the simple vowels. *Omicron* means "little o" (< ο + μῑκρόν), and *omega* means "big o" (< ο + μέγα). These terms also arose in the Byzantine period.

$$\text{Dactylic Hexameter} \quad \overset{1}{-\,\smile\smile}\,|\,\overset{2}{-\,||\,\smile\smile}\,|\,-\,||\,\overset{3}{\smile\smile}\,|\,-\,||\,\overset{4}{\smile\smile}\,|\,\overset{5}{-\,\smile\smile}\,|\,\overset{6}{-\,-}$$

$$\text{Dactylic Pentameter} \quad -\,\overline{\smile\smile}\,|\,-\,\overline{\smile\smile}\,|\,-\,||\,-\,|\,\smile\,\smile\,|\,-\,\smile\,\smile\,|\,-$$

$$\quad\quad 1 \quad\quad 2 \quad\quad 2\tfrac{1}{2} \quad\quad 3\tfrac{1}{2} \quad\quad 4\tfrac{1}{2} \quad 5$$

$$-\quad - \quad | \quad - \quad | \quad - \quad - \quad | \quad \smile\smile \quad - \quad | \quad - \quad - \quad \smile\smile \quad - \quad -$$

Ζεὺς κύκ | νος, ταῦ | ρος, ‖ σάτυ | ρος, χρῦ | σὸς δι' ἔ | ρωτα

Λήδης, | Εὐρώ | πης, ‖ Ἀντιό | πης, Δανά | ης.

$$- \quad - \quad | \quad - \quad | \quad - \quad \smile\smile \quad | \quad - \quad - \quad | \quad - \quad \smile\smile \quad | \quad - \quad -$$

πολλοὶ | γὰρ πλου | τέουσι κα | κοί, ‖ ἀγα | θοὶ δὲ πέ | νονται·

$$- \quad - \quad | \quad - \quad | \quad - \quad | \quad - \quad \smile\smile \quad - \quad \smile\smile \quad | \quad -$$

ἀλλ' ἡ | μεῖς αὐ | τοῖς ‖ οὐ δια | μειψόμε | θα

OBSERVATIONS

1. Each of the first five feet in a dactylic hexameter line may be a dactyl ($-\,\smile\,\smile$) or a spondee ($-\,-$). The fifth foot, however, is rarely a spondee. The sixth foot is always treated as a spondee, even if the last syllable is short.

2. The principal caesura in a dactylic hexameter line is often where a word ends within the third foot, either after the long first syllable (called a **strong caesura**) or after the first short syllable (called a **weak caesura**). It is also possible to have balancing principal caesurae in the second and fourth feet. In the first couplet, the principal caesura in the dactylic hexameter line is strong and falls in the third foot. In the second couplet, the principal caesura in the dactylic hexameter line is strong and falls in the fourth foot even though there is no balancing caesura in the second foot.

3. The dactylic pentameter line is always indented several spaces. It is made up of two segments of two and a half feet each. Each segment is called a **hemiepes** ($-\,\smile\,\smile\,-\,\smile\,\smile\,-$). The principal caesura in the dactylic pentameter line occurs after the first hemiepes. In the first two feet of the first hemiepes, dactyls or spondees may appear, but in the second hemiepes, the feet are almost always dactyls. The last syllable in the pentameter line always counts as long, even if it is short.

4. In the first line of the second couplet, the antepenult and penult of **πλουτέουσι** (-εου) are pronounced and scanned as a single long syllable. The pronunciation of two successive vowels or diphthongs in separate syllables as a single, long syllable is called **synizesis** (συνίζησις, "sitting together").

The dactylic hexameter line (without alternation with the dactylic pentameter line) is the meter of epic poetry. Thus, every line of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* is a dactylic hexameter.

$$- \quad \smile\smile \quad - \quad \smile \quad \smile\smile \quad - \quad | \quad - \quad - \smile\smile \quad - \quad \smile\,\smile \quad - \quad -$$

Μῆνιν ἄ | ειδε, θε | ά, ‖ Πη | ληιά | δεω, Ἀχι | λῆος (*Iliad* I.1)

$$- \quad \smile\,\smile \quad - \quad \smile\,\smile \quad - \quad | \quad - \quad \smile\,\smile \quad - \quad | \quad - \quad \smile\,\smile \quad - \quad -$$

Ἄνδρα μοι | ἔννεπε, | Μοῦσα, ‖ πο | λύτροπον, ‖| ὃς μάλα | πολλά (*Odyssey* i.1)

Active	Passive	Active	Passive

17. λέγουσιν _____   18. πείθομεν _____

19. ἔπαυον (2) _____   20. πείσουσι _____

_____

21. ἄρχεις (2) _____   22. πέμπω _____

_____

23. διδάσκειν _____   24. ἐδιδάσκετε _____

25. ἄρξετε _____   26. λέγει _____

27. ἦρχε _____   28. ἔπειθες _____

29. πέμψομεν _____   30. λέξειν _____

F. Translate these *middle voice* verb forms.

1. παύῃ _____

2. πείθεσθαι _____

3. παύσεσθε _____

4. ἤρχετο _____

5. διδασκόμεθα _____

6. πείθομαι _____

7. ἄρξει _____

8. παύεσθε _____

Chapter 8 Summary: **φημί**; Indirect Statement 2

φημί, φήσω, ἔφησα, —-, —-, —- say, assert

Long-vowel grade: **φη-** (*singular* forms); Short-vowel grade: **φα-** (other forms)

			Present Active Indicative	Imperfect Active Indicative
Singular				
1	-μι	-ν	φημί	ἔφην
2	-ς	-ς	φῄς	ἔφης/ἔφησθα
3	-σι(*ν*)	—	φησί(*ν*)	ἔφη
Plural				
1	-μεν	-μεν	φαμέν	ἔφαμεν
2	-τε	-τε	φατέ	ἔφατε
3	-ᾱσι(*ν*)	-σαν	φᾱσί(*ν*)	ἔφασαν

Present Active Infinitive: **φάναι**

Remember: Present active participle supplied by **φάσκων, φάσκουσα, φάσκον**

Indirect Statement with a Subject Accusative and an Infinitive

1. There is no introductory conjunction.
2. The **Subject** is regularly in the **Accusative** case.
3. When the subject of the indirect statement is the same as the subject of the introductory verb, the subject of the indirect statement is not expressed, and any predicate is nominative.
4. The tense of the infinitive represents the tense (and often the aspect) of the verb in the original direct statement and has time relative to the introductory verb of saying:

   present infinitive = **time simultaneous**
   future infinitive = **time subsequent**
   aorist infinitive = **time prior**
   perfect infinitive = **time simultaneous + completed aspect**
5. Any negation in the original direct statement remains unchanged in the indirect statement.

Direct Statements

ἡ μάχη παύεται/ἐπαύθη/παυθήσεται/ πέπαυται.
The battle is being stopped/was stopped/ will be stopped/has been stopped.

ἡ μάχη παύεται/ἐπαύθη/παυθήσεται/ πέπαυται.
The battle is being stopped/was stopped/ will be stopped/has been stopped.

ἡ μάχη οὐ παύεται/ἐπαύθη/παυθήσεται/ πέπαυται.
The battle is not being stopped/was not stopped/will not be stopped/has not been stopped.

δεινός εἰμι.
I am clever.

Indirect Statements

φῂς τὴν μάχην παύεσθαι/παυθῆναι/ παυθήσεσθαι/πεπαῦσθαι.
You say that the battle is being stopped/was stopped/ will be stopped/has been stopped.

ἔφης τὴν μάχην παύεσθαι/παυθῆναι/ παυθήσεσθαι/πεπαῦσθαι.
You were saying that the battle was being stopped/had been stopped/would be stopped/had been stopped.

φήσεις τὴν μάχην οὐ παύεσθαι/παυθῆναι/ παυθήσεσθαι/πεπαῦσθαι.
You will say that the battle is not being stopped/was not stopped/will not be stopped/has not been stopped.

Γοργίᾱς φησὶ δεινὸς εἶναι.
Gorgias says that he is clever.