

FESTSCHRIFT

FOR PROF. STATHIS EFSTATHIADIS

The present volume of the Selected Papers from the 17th International Symposium of the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics is dedicated to Professor Stathis Efstathiadis for his valuable contribution to the organization and development of the School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, as well as his pioneering role in the promotion of the Teaching and Learning of Modern Foreign Languages in Greece.

Stathis Efstathiadis is a graduate of the School of English Language and Literature, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, where he later served as a dedicated member of the staff for more than 35 years. He holds an MLitt in Applied Linguistics and a PhD in Linguistics (with distinction), both from the University of Edinburgh in Great Britain.

It is difficult to decide which of Professor Efstathiadis' multiple roles stands out and marks his career more prominently. To begin with, his career as a university professor merits a special reference as it is firmly connected with the School of English, where he taught and also worked towards the School's international recognition as an institution of high academic standards. Being exceptionally perceptive in the field of Foreign Language Teaching and Learning, he was among the first scholars who promoted modern approaches to language teaching through the methodology courses he taught, the conferences he organized and the links he established with other institutions and international organizations. During his creative years of service in the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, he contributed to the professional development of many generations of teachers of English by providing both initial and in-service training. He taught courses in the areas of General and Applied Linguistics, such as Transformational Generative Grammar, English Syntax, Generative Phonology, ELT Methodology, Testing & Evaluation, and Applied Linguistics, both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. As a visiting professor, he also taught at several universities abroad, such as the Universities of Westminster, Edinburgh, Lancaster, Leeds, Montpellier III in Europe, and Kent State University in the USA. At the same time, he took part in lectures, seminars and symposia on relevant topics at various other universities in Europe, the USA, and Japan, either as an invited speaker or on scholarships, grants and fellowships by the Greek State, the British Council, the Fulbright Foundation, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, and other institutions.

Among Professor Efstathiadis' other academic activities, special reference should be made to the organization of eighteen international Symposia and Conferences as well as the AILA World Congress in 1990. These international events had many useful outcomes: they brought to Greece outstanding scholars from overseas, they opened up new horizons to young Greek scholars, and allowed new ideas, modern theories and research methodologies to circulate, thus enlisting Greek scholars as members of the broader academic community.

His roles as a researcher and author are also worth mention, since he has written thirteen books as author, has co-authored another four, and has published seventy-eight articles in national and international applied linguistics journals and conference proceedings. Three of his books, namely, *A Survey of FLLT Methodology*,

Assessment and Evaluation of Language Performance, and *Language Testing: theory and practice*, have assisted generations of students and young teachers in their university studies and professional development.

Professor Efstathiadis also held many other posts which demanded both administrative ability and ability to co-ordinate various programmes. In his role as an administrator, he repeatedly served as Chair of the School of English and Head of the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics. He represented the Department and Aristotle University in various committees, such as the Supervising Committee of the School of Modern Greek, of which he had also been President. Moreover, he represented the University and Greece abroad in the Council of Europe (1978-1990), where he was in charge of programmes for the Modern Languages, in UNESCO and the European Committee as an analyst-evaluator of language programmes (LINGUAPAX). From 1989 until his retirement in 2000, he was coordinator of many European Committee programmes such as ERASMUS, LINGUA, TEMPUS, and SOCRATES. During 1990-1993 he served as one of the two elected Vice-Presidents of the International Applied Linguistics Association (AILA).

Professor Efstathiadis has been an active member of several linguistic associations, namely, IATEFL, LAGB, Indiana University Linguistics Club, Linguistic Society of America, Linguistic Society of Chicago, TESOL, GALA and AILA.

Three more roles, particularly important for those of us who specialize in Applied Linguistics, are those of the founder of the Greek Applied Linguistics Association (GALA) in 1980 and its elected president for the following eighteen years until 1998 when he resigned, and that of the editor of GALA's annual journal, the *Journal of Applied Linguistics (JAL)*, from 1985 to 1998. A year later, he was elected Honorary President of GALA for his contribution to the promotion of Applied Linguistic Studies in Greece.

For the personal mark he left at the School of English, his broader academic activities and work as well as his influential personality, Professor Efstathiadis was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki when he retired from active service in 2000.

However, it would have been a loss if his knowledge, energy and experience from his long active career in the academic circles had been subdued and left unused. Since 1996 Professor Efstathiadis has been the Director of the Department for the Support and Promotion of the Greek Language (Centre for the Greek Language), contributing to the development of teacher training programmes and teaching materials for teachers of Greek as a foreign language, the administration of examinations for the certification of knowledge of Modern Greek, and the promotion of the Greek language worldwide.

We wish Professor Efstathiadis good health, strength and happiness in all aspects of his life.

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