

The common language or *κοινή* (*kee-NEEH*) *γλώσσα* was formed during 300 B.C. and 300 A.D. It proceeded from the attic dialect, spoken in Athens between 500-400 B.C. when the Athenians reached the highest point in their civilization. This became not only the common language of all Hellenes (Greeks), but as a result of the conquests of Alexander the Great, became the international language of its age. It was spoken and written where people lived, in countries such as Syria, Asia Minor, Persia, Egypt, etc. As a consequence of its expansion, the language embodied several lingual loans. One can find many elements of modern Greek (*Νεοελληνική γλώσσα*) in the language of the third century after Christ, the language also that our Holy Fathers spoke and used in their writings. The language of the gospels, for instance, speaks of the very beginning and first appearance of modern Greek.

The evolution of the Hellenic language continued during the Byzantium, and a large amount of those words have remained the same to this today. When Byzantium declined, the Byzantine language differed only slightly from modern Greek. Modern Greek is the language the Hellenic people use to express themselves in various ways. The oral traditions of fables, folk songs, and proverbs, all use modern Greek.

Research and several studies have shown that learning a second language and especially Greek, one of the richest languages in the world and the mother of many languages, will give children a competitive advantage for college and a valuable job skill in their career. Furthermore, it is a life-long gift and provides children, among others, with:

- ✓ Higher scores on standardized tests
- ✓ Enhanced critical thinking skills
- ✓ Improved listening and broader vocabulary
- ✓ Increased competence in English
- ✓ Strengthened problem solving skills
- ✓ Greater creativity and higher-order thinking skills
- ✓ Heightened self-concept and high levels of self-esteem
- ✓ Better understanding of own language and culture
- ✓ Receptivity toward other people, history and cultures
- ✓ Enhanced academic and career opportunities

It should be noted that thirty five percent of the English words derive from Greek.

In conclusion, modern Greek is one of the richest languages in the world, with an absolute completeness, synthetic power and productive ability. But above all, the Hellenic language has a unique expressiveness

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