

Antonín Bartoněk (Masaryk University)

The Ancient Greek and Latin sentence syntax as projected into the sphere of modern languages of Western and Eastern Europe

At first sight, the Ancient Greek and Latin syntax seem to be connected by numerous linguistic bonds. However, a more detailed examination, especially of the Greek and Latin subordinate clauses, shows a number of serious syntactical differences in the analyzed linguistic field between these two no more spoken ancient languages. (The most distinctive ones being as follows:)

The main lines of development of both these syntactical systems can also be traced in the medieval and modern periods, but not infrequently some signs of discontinuity prevailed while various older grammatical features had to make way for new linguistic approaches. Such situation emerged in Western Europe, primarily within the sphere of Romance languages and secondarily in the most important Germanic languages where the Latin influence proved to be clearly evident at any time, as well as in the Slavonic area of Eastern Europe where the Greek influence rather often remained evident and the Old Church Slavonic constituted an important link between the ancient Greek past and the modern Slavonic present. Nevertheless, various surprising differences, surpassing the mentioned linguistic borderline between the European West and East, will be presented at the end of the paper.