AKOMA 'STILL, YET'

Hadzidakis, in MNE and ᾿Αθηνᾶ 42. 79ff. has made clear the derivation of ἀκόμα from ἀκόμη by the relatively recent affixation of the adverbial - α. This change is therefore not phonetic, but a single fresh morphological derivation based on the syntactic role of the word.

He has also argued, with less certainty but I think with high probability, that the retraction of the accent ἀκόμη ⟨ἀκομή rests on analogy, perhaps with τώρα 'now'. It seems to me that at an early stage ἀκομή and τώρα would have borne little similarity as a basis for analogy in just these terms. Therefore I would propose, that it was an *unstressed* -α (from such words as τώρα) that was affixed to ἀκομή as an adverbial marker. Hence, in one stage:

$$\text{ἀκομή} + \text{-}\breve{α} \rightarrow \text{ἀκόμα}$$

Then behind this form it has been alleged that we must see ἀκμήν 'still' (⟨accusative of ἀκμή 'point, top') with anaptyxis. But such an explanation is poorly motivated. Fortunately, we know of a closely parallel form which is highly instructive.

The noun ἀμόνι 'anvil' must be regularly derived from *ἀγμόνιον⟨ἀκμον- ← ἄκμων. In view of this, from ἀκμήν we might have expected *phonetically* *ἀμμή(ν). Such a form, especially in many syntactic positions, would have clashed with ἀμμὲ ⟨ἀμμή 'certainly, surely' ⟨ ἄν μή 'if not'. To resolve the ambiguity, it appears that -κ- was freshly inserted in *ἀμμή ⟨ ἀκμήν. We must regard this κ- insertion as a reflexion of literacy, taken from the written language.

Since, however, by this time in the *spoken* language the sequence κμ no longer occurred, a transitional vowel was inserted ("or heard") automatically. Hence

$$*\text{ἀμμή} \rightarrow *\text{ἀκμή} = [\text{ακ}^{0}\text{μή}] \rangle \text{ἀκομή}$$

We see from this not only how important it is to discriminate phonetic, phonological, and morphological happenings, but also in the case of Greek to keep clearly in view at all stages the written language and its powerful influence.

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