
A Linguistic Analysis of Regional Permutations of the Adriatic Salutation

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Abstract

This paper presents an analysis of the expression commonly known as the Adriatic Salutation. This phrase has variously been translated into the English as “Greetings, Adrian” and “Hi Adrian!” The Adriatic Salutation is remarkable because it has been passed down in a virtually perfect manner since its inception by an unknown ancient author and is thought to have been conceived simultaneously and independently by both Roman and Chinese authors. The exact origins and significance of this phrase is the subject of current scholarship, but this paper seeks to analyze the current work done on the translation of the phrase and provide an overview of current theories on its origin.

Keywords

hi, hello, Adrian, Thumbtack

Introduction

Throughout the various language groups, there is a phrase, known to scholars as the Adriatic Salutation, whose morphology remains remarkably consistent. In the Greek, it is given by *χαῖρε Ἀδριᾶνε*; the poet Vergil is apocryphally said to have expressed this sentiment in a lost passage of his *Georgics* with the Latin vocative *salvē, Adriāne!* In the Anglo-Saxon tradition, the phrase has been studied extensively by Professor Erica Casareno at Kellenberg High School; she translates the Russian *привет адриан* as “I express salutatory sentiments unto thee, he who is named Adrian”—more colloquially, “hi Adrian!”¹. Considering that this phrase has a recorded equivalent in all human communicational modes that have existed since 100 CE (although Professor Casareno notes that a cave painting in southern France may express a similar sentiment and is dated to be significantly earlier²), it is of great scholarly interest to understand it thoroughly. This paper outlines the current state of the research into the Adriatic Salutation, including its linguistic structure and evolution, its possible origins, and current scholarship.

Linguistic structure and evolution

A linguistic analysis of the Adriatic Salutation must first begin with a study of its structure. Throughout 65 different languages sampled, Professor Casareno notes

that in all but one of them, the phrase is structured as a singular active imperative verb followed by a noun in the vocative case³. For instance, the Greek expression *χαῖρε Ἀδριᾶνε* is seen to follow this structure with the masculine omicron declension noun *Ἀδριᾶνός*. These components, the verbal and nominal components respectively by the scholarly community. In the Latin, the nominal component *Adriānus* is also seen to be masculine. In fact, in every single language sampled by Professor Casareno, the nominal component is seen to be of the masculine degree, strongly suggesting that the original addressee of the phrase was an incredibly masculine man.

The Adriatic Salutation is unique with respect to its linguistic evolution from its first recorded usage in the works of the ancient authors until the present time in that its morphology remains remarkably consistent. This suggests that the evolution of the phrase was extremely stable—for some reason, it was transferred in more or less complete form through the preceding millennia. Present scholarship does not provide a reason for this, but it could be reasonably inferred that such an exceedingly masculine man struck a sense of awe in those around him; the Adriatic Salutation

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was therefore treated as a divine phrase and was thus transferred nearly intact through the generations of oral tradition.

Possible origins during the reign of Hadrian

When investigating the ultimate origin of the expression, a strong candidate is a similar expression that occurs in the literature of many Latin authors. Many speculate that the phrase was originally a court address to the Roman emperor Publius Aelius Hadrianus Augustus, who reigned from 76 CE to 138 CE. Supporting scholarship points to the evidence provided by a now-destroyed inscription in Hadrian's Mausoleum. Although only a fragment of the original inscription still exists, the remaining text strongly suggests the phrase was exceedingly common by the middle of Hadrian's reign. This would seem to agree with commentaries describing the Bar Kokhba revolt in Judea during Hadrian's reign. According to this explanation, the nominal component *Adriānus* is a corrupted form of the original *Hadriānus*. However, this explanation fails to consider that partially-formed literary references to the nominal component *Hadriānus* were made prior to the reign of Hadrian, as seen in Cicero's *In Verrem* 2.1.70.1, which reads *Sic iste multō scelerātor et nēquior quam ille Hadriānus*. Additionally, references to a partially formed Adriatic Salutation incorporating both the motional and nominal components are seen contemporaneously in several texts of the Asiatic literary traditions. There is no evidence that the usage of the phrase was passed through the Silk Road trade routes, since interior Arabic nations have no recording of the Adrian Salutation from that time despite its numerous appearances in contemporary Chinese court records. It is therefore inferred that the phrase was independently discovered by the Chinese in an isolate form closely resembling the Western motional and nominal components; the scholarly term for such a Chinese isolate is "exceedingly Chinese." Interestingly, the Chinese form of the phrase does not include any hint of initial aspiration, suggesting that the phrase is not a corruption of an earlier reference to the Roman emperor Hadrian but rather a completely different greeting expressed to a mysterious, highly masculine man named Adrian.

Current scholarship

Significant modern research on the Adriatic Salutation has been performed by the American Fonetick Commission (AFC), led by Professor Casareno of Kellberg High School. In a recent discovery, the AFC

has uncovered ancient Hebrew manuscripts containing explicit references to the Adriatic Salutation. Additionally, a partially-formed German translation reading *ich habe das spiel verloren* has been uncovered by researchers at Dresden, Germany. There is additionally a cave painting in southern France depicting several early *Homo sapiens* engaging in what appears to be an academic buzzer-based team competition. In her preliminary findings, Professor Casareno argues that the oral positions of the players suggest that they are in the middle of uttering the motional component of the Adriatic Salutation. If upheld under further study, this will be the first indication that the Adriatic Salutation dates back to at least 5000 BCE, significantly prior to any previous attempt to date the phrase. This suggests that "Hi Adrian!" and its linguistic equivalents are a fundamental part of the way humans communicate.

Another interesting thing to note is that the Hello Adrian program is the fundamental algorithm first studied by many computer science students. An example in the C programming language is shown below:

```
#include <stdio.h>
int
main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    const char *msg = "Hello Adrian!";
    printf("%s\n", msg);
    return 0;
}
```

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