Historical linguistics and early modern dictionaries of Ancient Greek

Were compilers of early modern dictionaries interested in the history of the Greek language? The early modern period provides much fascinating evidence for language variation and change in Greek due to the exponential rise in the production of vernacular prose texts in a variety of genres, and many multilingual dictionaries from this period include ancient (or 'literary') Greek and Latin. This paper will discuss some entries from these dictionaries, asking how ideas about the history of Greek and the relationships between languages might have influenced the choice of translations or the organisation of the information.

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