

V. The history of English historical linguistics

21. Southern Europe

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Unlike European countries such as Austria, Germany and the Netherlands, where English studies in general, and English historical linguistics in particular, have a long history,¹ the interest in English historical linguistics in Southern Europe dates back to more recent times and has been confined to France, Italy and Spain. English Studies in the other three Mediterranean countries, namely Greece, Portugal and Cyprus, have a focus on literature and culture, or at best on synchronic linguistics, as can be seen from the accounts in Parkin-Gounelas (2008), Kayman (2000), and Stephanides and Goutsos (2008). Chapter 21, therefore, will pay attention only to developments in the field in France, Italy and Spain.

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¹ See, respectively, Markus (2000: 145–147), Haas (2008: 75–78) and Loonen (2000: 92).