



## The AGNT Project Report—Q1 2022

As a licensee or friend of AGNT or ANLEX, we would like to update you once a quarter about our continuing work to enhance and perfect these databases and about our plans for the future.



**The Project.** *The AGNT Project Report—Q3 2008* introduced the team, outlined ongoing tasks, and discussed potential tasks.



### More Notes and Analyses

Timothy Friberg

#### **John Werner's Passing**

John Werner, whom I termed in our AGNT introduction of 1981 the closest thing I knew to a living speaker of Koine Greek, died on Sunday March 6, 2022. Though he wrestled with the debilitating effects of Parkinson's disease for decades, he actually died on a Sunday afternoon walk with an eleven-year-old companion. He was roughly 91 years old and soon six months.

Though I have given decades of my life to the development of AGNT, no one else has probably come near to John's record of AGNT involvement. I met him at an SIL course on discourse analysis (where he was a bright student!) in 1976 and have been in constant touch with him since. After assisting the AGNT project for thirty-eight years in significant ways, he finally told me he had to resign for reasons of failing health. But you just cannot keep a good man down, so for the next eight years he was happy to answer my occasional questions.

John had extensive input into the formative years of AGNT. And thereafter, well, everyone needs an expert and John was that expert for AGNT. I feel his loss deeply.

#### **What Do Highlighting, Tags, and Lexical Entries Have in Common?**

Much indeed. If you have followed our newsletters for some time, you probably know that original AGNT grammatical analyses were later joined by ERGs, English Reference Glosses. These, for every next reflex in the Greek text, are drawn from the lexical entries of our Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament, which are themselves being revised under the direction of **Tony Pope**. Some years ago we began a project task to highlight the source of each ERG among ANLEX glosses, both to help the reader get his bearings in the larger entry and to aid more in-depth probing. **Ray Gordon** has headed up this task.

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To get digital formulas for automatic highlighting of the ANLEX text, we have to number ordinal occurrence of words to inform our formulas just where highlighting is to begin and end and in what color. So we put “tags” (not AGNT grammatical tags) into the write-ups to identify the ordinal placement of words. That was first done by a MSWord macro, but has more lately been replaced by powerful CC (consistent change) tables being provided by **Alan Buseman** to cover each and every relevant word in the text (he and his wife are good at solving puzzles).

At this opportunity provided by several aspects of the highlighting function being fixed, we are evaluating our highlighting again, especially to check that the right words are highlighted in the right colors and others not. Here is a sample, in particular for the reflex ἀναστήσει in ACTS 3.22, though it is not necessarily the final approved display:

**ἀνίστημι** fut. ἀναστήσω, mid. ἀναστήσομαι; 1aor. ἀνέστησα, ptc. ἀναστήσας; 2aor. ἀνέστην, imperative ἀνάστα and ἀνάστηθι; {ἀνά, ἴστημι}

\***(1) transitively (future and first aorist active);**

- (a) of persons *cause to stand up or rise, help up* (AC 9.41);
  - (b) of bringing a dead person to life *raise, bring back to life* (AC 2.24);
  - (c) of a building *erect, put up* (MK 14.58ms);
  - (d) **of causing someone to appear as a public figure *raise up, raise to prominence* (AC 3.22);**
  - (e) of causing a descendant to be born *produce* (MT 22.24);
- (2) intransitively (second aorist active and future middle);**
- (a) *rise (up), stand up, get up* (MK 9.27), with phrase indicating destination *move* (MK 14.60);
  - (b) from the dead *rise, come back to life* (JN 11.23);
  - (c) as giving testimony in court *appear, come forward* (MK 14.57);
  - (d) as appearing as a public figure *come into existence, come to prominence* (AC 7.18);
  - (e) in Hebrew idiom marking the following action as a decisive step *proceed, take action, (make a) move* (LU 24.12);
  - (f) with ἐπί (accusative), as taking hostile action against someone *attack* (MK 3.26);
  - (g) of a building *rise, be put up* (MK 13.2mss)

We are not into highlighting for artistic reasons, but to lead the user toward a more comprehensive grasp of the nature of the lexical item he might be wrestling with.

### Why Are There Effectively Two ANLEXs?

The original ANLEX (**Neva Miller**, 2000) represented a traditional view of Greek grammar and lexicon, and rightly so. About the time it was published **Carl Conrad** brought to my attention some issues, noting that there was a more satisfying approach to Greek voice that we should consider using in AGNT and ANLEX. Over the next two decades, being more than convinced, I worked closely with Carl in making a parallel ANLEX (termed “innovating” over against the original “revised” [it is currently being extensively revised] ANLEX.

For the February 2021 upgrade of ANLEX and AGNT for vendors, I was just about to agree to the inaugural release of the parallel innovating ANLEX, when we noticed some recurring problems that first had to be fixed. We have done some of that in the interim (including many

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deep discussions—philosophical and practical), but I am happy to state now that we have secured the help of **Randy Leedy**, a lifelong teacher of Greek, to undertake a thorough review of the content of the innovating ANLEX.

Though there is great overlap of content of the two ANLEXs, the unique material of the parallel version is now about to be checked carefully. This will include spelling and form of Greek words (lemmas and principal parts), but with more complication also the expression of middle and passive forms, which are seen to be “subject-affected” forms in the new paradigm. There will be some subtle differences between the two forms of ANLEX that Randy will carefully evaluate. We will also be weighing whether users of Bible software will be able to toggle between the two forms of ANLEX without undue terminological confusion. Randy is currently hard at work.

Linguistically, it is my judgment that the innovating analysis of middle and passive verbs is both right and offers greater explanatory power. But pedagogically, the traditional analysis will likely hold out for decades to come. For that duel of understandings we want to provide both forms of ANLEX into the uncertain future.

Of course our goal in some of these complicated tweakings remains serving the user, whether that be as translator, pastor or student.

### Needs

We have an ongoing need of two kinds. First, we need volunteers—the backbone of AGNT development for forty-six years—to help move the project forward. We have tasks that will take intermediate Greek experience, and we have tasks that will be more than served by intelligent and persevering volunteers, quite apart from Greek expertise.

Second, we continue to look for the right person to take over the AGNT project at the appropriate time. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact us. John Werner’s recent promotion to heaven reminds us that none of us knows the day of our passing.



As always, we remain open to developing AGNT and ANLEX in ways that are most useful to the needs of students and readers of God’s Word.

Thank you for your continued support of *The AGNT Project*, for faithfully marketing the AGNT and ANLEX databases, and for making these state-of-the-art tools for studying the Greek New Testament available to students, scholars, pastors, translators, and laymen worldwide.

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