The AGNT Project Report—Q4 2023

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.

Sorting Out the Details: Working toward Data Harmonization

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Accuracy is paramount when developing and maintaining a database. When one database (AGNT Classic) grows to six (e.g., AGNT4, AGNT5), maintaining accurate data becomes significantly more complicated. On the one hand, all six databases must remain faithful to their respective exemplars; on the other hand, editorial innovations must be coordinated among dependent databases. Complicating the situation further, the two versions of ANLEX are codependent with AGNT.

With this many databases, checking for inaccuracies by hand is inefficient and prone to error. Only a computer can do the work with 100% accuracy. Providentially, Eric Inman, whom we met before there was such a thing as AGNT, has volunteered to put his computing skills to work on behalf of the AGNT Project. His clean-up routines and his forthcoming web-based app for AGNT will help ensure that AGNT and ANLEX users have the most accurate databases possible.

Before he can create his app, we've had to resolve over 5,000 discrepancies that Eric has discovered in the databases by writing various clean-up routines. Many of the discrepancies had to do with differences between the two ANLEX versions, revised and innovating. As a brief overview, "revised" represents our traditional AGNT-ANLEX approach, while "innovating" represents the version of AGNT-ANLEX that primarily gives a place for a "subject-affected" view of voice in Greek verbs. Most of these discrepancies were very easy to remedy, for example,

(1) 03-006-002-010 1 A4 10: Innovating lemma: ketiv: ἔξεῖναι; qere: ἐξεῖναι, where an extraneous accent had sneaked into the mix.

(2) Or a conventional (I, II) [for distinguishing between otherwise identical lemmas (in reduced form)] inconveniently varying with *i, ii.* 27-010-007-023 2 NA 8: Innovating lemma: ketiv: δοῦλος ( ) qere: δοῦλος (II).

(3) Or a discrepancy between using precomposed characters and not.

Discrepancies of those kinds were legion, but not really problematic. One by one they were fixed.

The most frequently occurring discrepancy—verbal lemmas that could be parsed as active or middle-passive—was not as easy to fix. When developing AGNT and ANLEX, we basically followed BDAG, unless evidence in Greek literature suggested otherwise. Our departures from BDAG were overwhelmingly limited to active or middle-passive verbal lemmas. Our rule of thumb was that if a word found in the GNT was conventionally written one way, say middle-passive, but usage in the first century AD showed active forms (or before the first century and then again after the first century), then we ventured off on our own.

To rectify those lemma-related discrepancies, we had to examine hundreds of verb types and thousands of tokens. If Tony Pope in his ANLEX revision work had revised an ANLEX entry (some 1,200 to date), we took his determination as basic, especially because in his work he checked the literature for compliance with our first-century usage rule of thumb. For those instances that Tony had not yet revised—about a hundred verbs showing a discrepancy between the form represented in our original ANLEX (Baker Book House, 2000) and the forms provided by Carl Conrad (our middle-voice expert)— Tony checked out the set, and we worked on until there were almost no more discrepancies.

Here is an example of two of these discrepancies, the first resolved, the second on hold:

1. φοβέομαι ~ φοβέω. Φοβέομαι is the middle-passive (that is, nonactive) form of the verb throughout the Greek New Testament. But there is evidence of active usage according to the "first-century rule of thumb," although the meaning is slightly different. On that basis we chose φοβέω as the form of the lemma for purposes of the AGNT-ANLEX project. (We did not commission Carl to work in terms of that rule of thumb.) In BDAG the lemma interestingly is also listed as φοβέω, though that lexicon notes that it is entirely passive "in our literature."

2. In ANLEX 2000 we have ἄρχω, while in innovating ANLEX we find ἄρχειν **and** ἄρχεσθαι. (Remember that the default lemma form in innovating ANLEX is the infinitive form. If the first-person-singular verb form were chosen, this set would be ἄρχω **and** ἄρχομαι.) Here the active and nonactive lemma forms reflect rather different meanings, to 'rule over' and 'start', respectively. Our eventual action seems to need a choice among three options: 1. Split the entry into

two separate entries based on the quite distinct meanings of the two. 2. Leave the lemma as ἄρχειν **and** ἄρχεσθαι with the entry write-up reflecting both meanings. 3. Choose ἄρχεσθαι as the lemma form, while the entry itself would still handle both meanings. The jury is still out. Incidentally, a number of middle-passive lemma form verbs seem to have an active that is causative in sense. In such cases the meaning is not as different as in the example just above, and probably will be retained as a single verb lemma.

The last three months have been a significant clean-up time for the AGNT-ANLEX project. Most of the 5,000 discrepancies have been resolved and corrections made, either to the fields \lg or \innolg in the AGNT databases or to one or the other of relevant ANLEX lemmas. We are not quite done, however, with this database clean-up process. Eric suspects that he will likely discover more discrepancies as he proceeds to refine his routines.

Paul O'Rear, SIL's International Translation Resources Coordinator (link), has graciously written an app for generating and updating the Paratext version of ANLEX, based on the app he created to generate and update the Logos-TW version of ANLEX. He is currently in the process of testing his work. Once this testing is complete, we anticipate being able to release new updates of ANLEX for Paratext and Logos-TW in Q1 of 2024.

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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