



The AGNT Project Report—Q2 2012

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.



A Comparison of Six Electronic Lexicons

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In this article, we compare the lemmas from six different lexicons: Strong (1890), Thayer (1894), Abbott-Smith (1921), NASEC (1998), ANLEX (2000), and BDAG (2000).

There are 8,790 unique lemmas among the lexicons, of which over half (4,808) are common to all of them. Strong's lexicon is very heavily weighted toward the Byzantine textform: it contains almost 85% of the lemmas unique to the Byzantine but less than 10% of those that are unique to UBS4. All the other lexicons contain more than 90% of the UBS4-unique lemmas. The ANLEX lexicon has the distinction of being the most complete resource for both UBS4 and Byzantine-unique lemmas.

Although the earliest lexicon (Strong's) is the smallest and the latest one (BDAG) is the largest, the lexicons do not always grow as a function of date: both the NASEC and the ANLEX have fewer main entries than the Abbott-Smith lexicon. Coincidentally, these two are also the most similar: more than 90% of their combined lemmas are the same.

The BDAG lexicon is by far the largest, containing almost 2,100 lemmas that are not found in any of the other lexicons or even in the New Testament. Many of these are forms that come from other early Christian literature. Note, however, that the LXX is not included in its purview.

It is instructive to contrast those forms that exist only in Strong's with those that exist in all the lexicons except for Strong's. Strong's lexicon is the most unique in the sense that it has the strongest contrast with the other lexicons by this metric. About 40% of words unique to Strong's are middle deponent verb forms (e.g., αἰρέομαι or αἰσχύνομαι), where the other lexicons have the active forms (αἰρέω or αἰσχύνω). Most of the remaining forms are by-forms (e.g., γρηγορεύω vs. γρηγορέω), different choice of headword (e.g., listing συνιστάω, συνιστάνω, συνίστημι, where the other lexicons use the lemma συνίστημι), forms of demonstrative pronouns, or neuter forms of other words (e.g., οὐδέν, μηδέν, τὰ, τέσσαρα, τι, τρία).

The second most unique lexicon is Abbott-Smith. About 40% of the forms unique to it are unassimilated forms (e.g., ἐνκάθετος, in addition to ἐγκάθετος or συνβιβάζω, instead of συμβιβάζω). The Abbott-Smith lexicon also has the lemmas for every letter of the Greek

alphabet, most of which are missing in all the others. It also has entries for the different ways the prefix συν- assimilates, e.g., συγκ, συγχ, συζ, συλλ, συμβ, συμμ, συμπ, συμφ, and συμψ, though not for any other prefix. The remainder are primarily spelling differences.

Indeed, each lexicon shows idiosyncracies that reflect the era in which it was made. Furthermore, the amount of headword information differs according to the degree of analytical user help intended. What Strong put into headwords, for example, ANLEX gives as part of its analytical listing.

Some of the lemmas that are “missing” from ANLEX are actually present but filed under an alternative form. For example, γαμίσκω is listed under γαμίζω. Interestingly, all but NASEC and ANLEX have entries for the Attic form ἐθέλω, which appears in the present tense in the NT only as θέλω (although the aorist shows its origin by using η for its augment).

Note: If any reader would like to look at the spreadsheet underlying these observations, please contact us.

The short article above consists of observations initial to a larger project of relating headwords from all the electronic lexical databases available to us (more than just these) to their ANLEX counterparts, as somehow basic (for our purposes!).



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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