The AGNT Project Report—Q3 2008

As a licensee 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 Analytical Greek New Testament Project is now in its thirty-third year. Its purpose is to provide aids to translators, students, and scholars of the Greek New Testament.

The initial product was the *Analytical Greek New Testament* (AGNT), which was published by Baker Book House in 1981 and now offered by Trafford Publishing. The second product was the *Analytical Concordance of the Greek New Testament*, published in two volumes (lexical focus; grammatical focus) by Baker Book House in 1991. These two volumes are out of print and are not to be reprinted. Due to advances in computing between 1980 and 1990—to say nothing of those through the present time, there was no need to represent electronically the exact form of the concordances, since their content and more were available through user-initiated interactive searches in the Greek text enabled through several good software packages. The third output of the project was the *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament* (ANLEX), published in 2000 by Baker Book House and reissued by Trafford in 2005.

Our Team. Our four-person team consists of Timothy and Barbara Friberg, Ulrik Peterson-Sandborg, and John Hughes.

- Tim and Barbara are field linguists working in Southeast Asia. Barbara earned an MA in linguistics at the University of Saigon and an MS in computer science at the University of Minnesota. Tim earned a PhD in linguistics from the University of Minnesota and as part of his PhD work was one of the first scholars to produce an electronically tagged text—the Analytical Greek New Testament (1977).

  The AGNT Project, and the AGNT and ANLEX databases, are Tim and Barbara's creations. Ulrik and I assist them in various ways.

- Ulrik earned a BSc in computer science and math and an MA and PhD in computational linguistics from Aarlborg University, where he now is Assistant Professor of Computer Science.

- I have a BA in philosophy from Vanderbilt University, a ThM from Westminster Theological Seminary, studied for a PhD in biblical studies at Cambridge University, taught at Westmont College, and now am President of Bits & Bytes, Inc.

- Many of Tim's publications may be found here, Barbara's here, Ulrik's here, and mine here and here.

Additionally, we are blessed to have the expert advice and help of various professional linguists and Greek experts many of whom are associated with SIL and who have made many contributions to *The AGNT Project* over the years.

Each member of our team brings distinctive strengths, training, and experience to *The AGNT Project* that collectively make us unique. We do not know what other GNT tagged-text projects are working on. However, we believe that when you read and ponder the list of tasks to which we have set our hands and minds, and the list we are discussing undertaking, our passion and commitment to providing the most professional tagged-text analytical tools possible for studying the Greek New Testament will stand out.

Ongoing Tasks. One never-ending task is constantly to ensure that the Greek texts we provide in AGNT and ANLEX correspond exactly to the latest corrected versions held by the copyright holders. Tim is passionate about this, and Ulrik has written custom programs that allow us to compare the texts we offer to other electronic Greek texts. These programs enable us to run text comparisons quickly and accurately.

Currently, we are focused on three main tasks.

- Correcting the tag line of AGNT incidentally and by subsystem searches and by responding to the questions and errors noted by users.

- Correcting our "third-line" lemmas and building a database in which the lemma forms of several well-known works will be collated: BDAG, Thayers, Louw and Nida, Strong's, etc., sometimes two (or more) lemmas of ANLEX being equivalent to another's single lemma and sometimes vice versa.

- Continuing our major project of adding a "fourth-line" English reference gloss to AGNT.

Potential Tasks. We are considering many new enhancements to the AGNT and ANLEX databases. These contemplated enhancements include:

- *AGNT Related*.

  o Adding further "lines" to AGNT.

  o Adding an annotation feature so that users may display more in-depth comments concerning the parsing analyses or options. These comments would be gleaned from reams of correspondence between *The AGNT Project* and its expert volunteers over the project's thirty-three years.

- o Correcting and upgrading the extensive AGNT appendix that explains the choices in our tagging and trying to make it even more comprehensive.

- *ANLEX Related*.

  - o Correcting ANLEX, both incidentally and systematically as part of our revision of AGNT, and adding the English reference glosses to it.

  - o Correcting the reflex analyses in ANLEX and their home-base pointers.

  - o Looking at all source texts available to us (mostly electronic) to glean from them instances of GNT reflexes that are not yet reflected in ANLEX's listing.

  - o Rewriting many ANLEX definition write-ups to make them more user friendly, making several additions, such as indicating what verbs are transitive, intransitive etc, and noting the interaction between compound verbs and verbal arguments (with or without congruent prepositional phrases), etc.

- *AGNT and ANLEX Related*.

  - o Concurrent with our AGNT/ANLEX revisions, doing an extensive reanalysis of conjunctions, prepositions, and other sets of GNT data to make them more useful to readers.

  - o Offering email support to users who have questions about individual grammatical tags.

  - o Adding a morphological breakdown of each GNT lemma to show constituent parts (à là Greenlee's *Lexicon* but improved).

  - o Identifying the underlying root for each lemma. (This is related to but different from the preceding item.)

  - o Interviewing expert volunteer candidates for project development needs.

  - o Refereeing volunteer analyses for inclusion in AGNT/ANLEX.

  - o Considering different candidate analyses (replacement or parallel), for example, Carl Conrad's take on middle and passive verbs.

  - o Weighing the content and format of a new printed AGNT and ANLEX.

- *New Databases*.

  - o **Creating a BYZ AGNT**. This would be an AGNT based on the Byzantine Textform (Robinson/Pierpont).

    - Correcting our "third-line" lemmas to the BYZ AGNT subproject.

- ▪ Preparing to add a "fourth line" English reference gloss to BYZ AGNT.

    - o **Creating a Westcott-Hort AGNT**.

    - o **Creating a NA27 AGNT**. Essentially, this would be the current UBS4 AGNT, except where punctuation differences between UBS4 and NA27 require a different analysis.

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, and laypeople worldwide.

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