The AGNT Project Report—Q3 2010

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.

General Progress Report on Major AGNT Development Projects as of October 1, 2010

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If desire could produce results, we would be giddy with success. But since our AGNT projects are full of detail that has to be weighed, checked, and approved, the gap between desire and fulfillment has to be closed with lots of sweat (we live in tropical Sulawesi and others occupy hotspots like Dallas during the summer) and expenditure of time. In this short article, I would like to give a situation report on some of our varied tasks. We most certainly welcome reader questions and suggestions to anything reported here and more.

1. AGNT10 Project

The AGNT10 Project is the name of the task upgrading and correcting the Greek text (GBS GNT4) underlying our analysis, the analysis itself and the lemma assignments. That may sound rather boring, but it is absolutely necessary. Since it is a bit of a challenge to get up-to-date GNT4 correction information from the German Bible Society, we are always comparing various electronic texts and using GBS's latest hardcopy edition (2008, 14th printing) to ascertain the status of the text, most frequently, it seems, regarding questions of punctuation (which was entirely reworked from the GNT3, with stray errors still coming to light). More recently, we have compared our version of GNT4 against the GBS SESB3.0 (Stuttgart Electronic Study Bible). It is amazing to us that there are even differences between the SESB3.0 version of GNT4 and the latest printed edition, both from the GBS.

Anyway, this is an ongoing effort. Our hope is that AGNT10 will be ready to send to vendors before its name designation becomes an embarrassment. But we would rather have red faces than give less than our very best effort for our esteemed vendors and their important users. Even so, we realize that most users don't usually complain too loudly about misplaced commas.

We are also planning to include boldface, paragraph, and poetry coding for those that might want this information and to do so in a manner that is easy to turn off and/or ignore as vendors implement the update.

2. AGNT81 Project

In the mid-nineties, we converted our original AGNT tags into a simplified tagging system that many have since found a very satisfying standard. However, the conversion project came at a cost: certain information (mostly semantic-interpretative) was suppressed in the changeover.

A few months ago, we found the original Baker AGNT typesetting tapes in good order, in the garage of our one-time typesetter, Stephen V. F. Waite, in Southern California. An East Coast firm was able to read them for us, and now we are on our way to producing Classic AGNT for any vendor that might want it (at no additional cost). In fact, we did maintain an electronic version of the original hardcopy AGNT within the project archives, but it had been corrupted in certain respects. We decided that a return to the original tapes, mercifully extant and readable, was easier than proofreading our imperfect copies of the same.

3. BYZ-AGNT Project

Our task to produce the long-awaited BYZ-AGNT is nearing completion. The base text is that of the Byzantine Textform, edited by Maurice A. Robinson and William G. Pierpont *(The New Testament in the Original Greek, Byzantine Textform 2005*). The final checks on our morphological analysis are soon to be finished. The checking is rigorous, for we have no intention of putting a second-rate BYZ-AGNT beside the well-spoken-of AGNT (GNT4).

4. AGNT-ANLEX Revision Project

First conceived in the 1990s we have been working on the AGNT-ANLEX revision ever since. Several years ago, we were able to secure the volunteer services of scholar Ray Gordon (of SIL). Very recently, he completed a mammoth checking sweep through the approximately 5,800 lemmas and 138,000 reflexes of the Greek New Testament, looking at the appropriateness of each previously drafted form of the English reference glosses (ERG), which are soon to become a standard feature of AGNT. These ERGs will be electronically cross-referenced to ANLEX, where each is also found in the definition spread of information. Part of Ray's task has been to revise ANLEX definitions wherever they were deficient.

Scholar John Werner has been examining every reflex occurrence of the sixty-five conjunctions of the GNT, some 20,000 reflexes in all. His corrections to existing conjunction tags (CC, CH and CS) and drafted ERGs will be cross-checked with Ray's work before we make this phase of the revision project available. The work of other volunteer checkers on this same task will, of course, also be incorporated.

Our work at revision is also turning up corrections and additions to the reflex tagging as found in ANLEX. Our goal is to maintain ANLEX as a text-critically neutral commentary on the language of the New Testament, including at very least all distinct forms from the eclectic critical texts (GNT4 and NA27), Textus Receptus, and the Majority and Byzantine Texts.

Though we are moving as well as we can toward an early inclusion of the results of revising AGNT and ANLEX in what we provide to Bible software vendors, there is still a call for hardcopy forms of these revised works, a call we shall consider the feasibility of at the proper time. What we haven't figured out yet is how to keep the size of the proposed revision volumes down in light of the expanded information (Classic AGNT's two lines becoming four—Greek, tag, lemma, ERG).

(The same ERG information being added to AGNT in this revision project will eventually also be reflected in the new BYZ-AGNT, meaning that its imminent release will not contain this information.)

5. Other Tasks and Matters

We have other enhancements and tasks in the long-range category. We won't discuss them now except to say that we are always looking for volunteer scholars and students to help us with the ongoing goal of providing the very best in Greek aids to students, pastors, and translators of the Greek New Testament. If you know of possible contacts for us, please do not hesitate to make them known.

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 laypeople worldwide.

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