The AGNT Project Report—Q3 2024

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.

Bits and Pieces

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When I was growing up, we had in our home a "junk drawer"—a sure place to find useful tools and odds and ends for each task. It was always the first place to look. Let us present below some bits and pieces, which, though not analogous to my boyhood memories, seem relevant as a label to some discussion about some less-salient items of our AGNT project that we deem yet important to our longer-term directions.

That we had time to conceive these doesn't preclude the involvement of others in helping us bring ideas to reality and hopefully to advance usefulness to our AGNT users. We welcome questions, advice and even offers to help us bring them to reality.

We'll stop after putting ten items on the table for your consideration.

1. **AGNT-ANLEX standalone web application.** Though our various vendors are crucial to making our AGNT and ANLEX databases available to wider circles, we feel that a more specialized application of our project that would be available on the web would serve many without being tied into specialized vendor approaches.

   Our key man here is Eric Inman, who conceived the whole idea. He has the computer background to make it happen. Interaction with him over the months has shown me that a completely pure and regularized input database is not negotiable; and so I have had a part in weeding out several thousand inconsistencies, virtually all below the user's radar.

   One of my personal interests in a web application is to be able to show a number of our innovations on the screen to the user long before they are ready to be implemented by our vendors. One of these is our highlighting effort to make ANLEX entries correspond with the exact ERG offered for a given record in the AGNT database. Right now roughly 25% of the ANLEX entries have been put into revised, highlightable format. Why shouldn't the user profit from highlighted displays now long before the entirety of the revision of ANLEX entries is fully realized, even though it is only partly implemented?

2. **Bringing AGNT3 up to date analytically.** We want to fill out our (Classic) AGNT3 database with all the additions we have made since AGNT first became available in 1981. Granted most critical text users would prefer AGNT4 or AGNT5, for a changing text, it stands to reason that even (GBS's) GNT3 be updated for its text and analysis. How much more having already fully upgraded our underlying GNT3 to GNT3-corrected should the AGNT analysis also be updated.

   The task is rather simple, mainly putting new and corrected fields of AGNT4 back into AGNT3, even to include our ERGs, lemma determinations, etc. From the viewpoint of our AGNT analysis of the GBS GNT3, it also makes sense to update this, since the tagging of AGNT3 represents the original AGNT grammatical tagging, and not the simplified tagging first introduced in AGNT4 and subsequent texts. We understand the need to retain the pre-simplified analysis for historical and practical considerations.

3. **Making AGNT3 and its appendix fully self-consistent.** Our original AGNT tags were internally self-consistent and useful for expressing our analysis. Furthermore, each major kind was presented in our Appendix for the sake of the user. As AGNT3 gave way to AGNT4 and following, we actually had to develop a separate appendix to explain the simplified tags (and yet a third appendix to explain the innovating approach, largely related to voice).

   All six AGNT databases are continuously being updated. In order to check that no corrections were made to Classic AGNT that were not consistent with its pre-simplified tags and its appendix, we need to do a thorough check of the changes (all marked and dated) that have been made to AGNT4 since its inception against all changes made to Classic AGNT just to ascertain that no changes to the latter violated either its pre-simplified tags or their appendix explanation. Intense maybe, but not a large set of changes to wade through.

4. **Adding a TR-AGNT.** Though we now have six AGNT databases representing the underlying texts of Westcott-Hort, GNT3, GNT4, GNT5, NA28, and Byzantine, it seems a wise plan for us to include as a seventh database an AGNT analysis of the Textus Receptus. Since there are three versions of the same, our introducing the TR would also necessarily include indicating the main variants in that textual family (Stephanus, Elzevir and Schrivener).

   There are other texts that we have been asked to provide an AGNT analysis for, to include both the Trinity GNT and the SBL GNT. But that seems at best something that might be done by our AGNT successors, our making the historical fixes first.

5. **Merging two versions of ANLEX lemmas into one.** We currently maintain two ANLEX databases, called revised and innovating. (The latter is a research database and not yet available publicly.) It turns out that the lemmas for the two versions of ANLEX are not nearly identical, largely due to the former being the version actively developed, while the later was initially the version to reflect, among other things, the more recent view of Greek voice studies, representing the general topic of subject affectedness. Clearly the traditional view of Greek voice, even though found in our "revised" ANLEX, presents a different sense of voice from that of the subject-affected one, wherein the term deponency has been relegated to a footnote.

Most of these differences are found in verbal lemmas, though not all. The intent is to unify them into one identical set that can well serve both approaches. As things now stand, by way of illustration, we have in revised ANLEX the lemma form ἄρχω, whereas in the innovating database we have ἄρχειν **and** ἄρχεσθαι**.**

Among our choices in standardizing is to have simply ἄρχω, dealing with active and nonactive usage in the entry; or, relatedly, to have ἄρχω and then internal to the entry presentation to introduce a major subdivision, namely I. and II, to focus on the voice array of data; or, further, we may incorporate the insight of the innovating version, namely ἄρχειν **and** ἄρχεσθαι, to become ἄρχω **and** ἄρχομαι in revised ANLEX; or yet, we may choose to split the entry into two parts, the lemma of the first being ἄρχω and that of the second, ἄρχομαι**.** The adjustment called for will not alter the current format of using first person present verbs in revised ANLEX, while using infinitives in innovating ANLEX, an automatic transformation from one to the other.

Whereas only one choice from our list above may be implemented for a given lemma, it is possible to take different approaches to different lemmas, depending on a number of practical considerations.

6. **Reissuing Classic AGNT.** Although most of our AGNT project is available electronically through participating vendors, we maintain print-on-demand versions of both ANLEX and AGNT. As long as the revision task of ANLEX is ongoing, there seems to be little reason to bring to print any other form of ANLEX than the original Baker 2000 version (Trafford Publishing). As for AGNT, the original version (Baker, 1981), now still available on demand through Trafford, seems ready for reprinting.

Such a reprinting would take the Greek text from GBS GNT3 to GNT3-corrected and would also involve an updated presentation of our tags. Updated tags would correct both original wrong analyses and the effects of decades of further experience in presenting analytical tags, except to exclude any changes away from the pre-simplified tags.

We have fielded interesting discussions of printing a completely new version of AGNT to include Greek text (possibly GNT6, as it becomes available), tags, Greek lemmas, ERGs and even PERGs. At this juncture for the AGNT project we are nowhere near to a relatively stable form of the aforementioned fields. Further, what once was containable within one volume with two lines of information (Greek text and tags), would now go to at least three volumes of at least six lines of text (Greek plus five), something that couldn't be made cost effective under any scenario known to us.

7. **Reintegrating ANLEX with ANLEX**. This and the following item are distinct enough for separate treatment, but are relevant to the larger ANLEX project.

ANLEX, as its name suggests, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, is surely analytical. As such, it strives to help the student understand basic parsing of Greek forms. Whereas this is done in the grammatical tags for anyone reading through the Greek New Testament, the original ANLEX also gave that information, arranged alphabetically, in its own pages. The ANLEX presentation was thus,

πυροῦμαι	VIPP--1S	πυρόω
πυρούμενοι	VPPPNM-P	πυρόω
πυροῦσθαι	VNPP	πυρόω

The first column showing the form in question, the middle column the grammatical tag for the same, and the third column the lemma form, that is, where lexical information is to be found in the pages of ANLEX.

This display of analytical information was temporarily removed (through the present) from our database. We now seek to reinstate the same, each line of information found alphabetically sorted in the pages of ANLEX.

It is a large task, but doable by careful attention to the data and its various locations throughout our database.

8. **Completing task of supplementing all known VL in ANLEX**. The task related to item seven above is our intention to search all available electronic texts of the manuscripts of the Greek New Testament in order to draw from them an expanded list of New Testament Greek vocabulary.

   After acquiring the available data (each with GNT reference location) in one larger database, the task would move on to parse each item in the context of its New Testament location, and assign a lemma form for the same.

   This undertaking is partly motivated at our having been told (in paraphrase) "As a lifelong teacher of Greek, I certainly don't need your analytical lexicon for the most part, but I find your extensive [to become exhaustive] listing of all (especially variant) forms of the Greek New Testament to be complete and accessible."

9. **Cross-checking Robinson with AGNT.** In acquiring access to the Byzantine Textform and then analyzing its word base, we became very acquainted with Maurice Robinson's parsed texts of both Westcott-Hort and Byzantine. Though his efforts and ours are based on careful and exacting analysis, a comparison of the two have certainly made clear that even just elementary tasks as parsing the text are subject to different interpretations.

   Having altered his tagging scheme to ours (for purposes of a thorough, learn-from-each-other comparison), we now have two spreadsheets comparing Robinson and AGNT's takes on each of the Westcott-Hort and Byzantine texts. (Robinson's use of WH over NA, which two share over 99.5% identity, is related to copyright accessibility.)

   These two spreadsheets have yet to be studied for what they might contribute to weeding out wrong analyses on either part. As for parsing tags themselves, beyond wrong analysis the situation is made more interesting by the richness of approach to such "subjective" analyses as found for conjunctions and particles in particular.

   Lemmas found in the two approaches (Robinson and AGNT) are also frequently distinct. Whether Δαυίδ or Δαβίδ, there are scores of spelling alternates for Greek lemmas, and not just personal names. This too needs to be systematized in studying the output of the spreadsheets.

10. **Lexicons cut the lexical pie in various ways.** ANLEX, for example, gives ἱερός 'holy' (as adjective) and τὸ ἱερόν 'temple' (noun) and τὰ ἱερά 'sacred things' (noun) all together under the lemma ἱερός, ά, όν, whereas BDAG gives ἱερός 'holy' (adjective) and τὰ ἱερά 'sacred things' (noun) under the adjectival lemma ἱερός, ά, όν, while τὸ ἱερόν 'temple' (noun) under its own nominal entry ἱερόν, οῦ, τό. For ANLEX all forms, whether adjectives or nouns, are found under the adjectival lemma ἱερός, ά, όν while for BDAG it

puts one noun, τὰ ἱερά 'sacred things' together with all adjective forms under the adjective lemma, while the other noun τὸ ἱερόν 'temple' under its own nominal lemma.

Whereas we do not question the reason for one or another sorting scheme being chosen by one lexicon over that of another, it is interesting to note that almost never are the reasons behind such choices written down for the benefit of the user—in any lexicon.

Just for the record our ANLEX reasoning is as follows: if a noun, as a subtantive adjective, also occurs with clear adjective usage, we put the two together under one lemma. On the other hand, a noun receives a noun lemma if there is no concurrent parallel adjective usage. (See ANLEX's first appendix, Crossed-over nouns, for some further insight into the problem.)

We hope to be able to make a composite list of all lemmas in several well-respected lexicons to show just how the decisions are made for that lexicon (and whether the lexicon is internally self-consistent). Of course, such observations can be done manually sitting at a carrel in some research library—if not our own office. But as we look the more to computer searches and storage of significant subpatterns of information, it seems a wise move to undertake this study in a more exhaustive way once and for all.

Thus you have had a glimpse into some of the tasks we have on our to-do list. We would love to have your input—if only questions and advice—or indeed to hear of your interest in helping us forward one or more of these tasks.

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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