



The AGNT Project Report—Q3 2020

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.



AGNT 2020: Bits & Pieces

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Innovative AGNT Verbal Tags

As noted, we have released our innovative verbal tags for AGNT. As of this moment, they haven't been implemented, as far as we can see, mainly because the vendors' software isn't amenable to toggling back and forth between traditional AGNT and innovative AGNT. But we have been given assurances that they are working on the problem.

AGNT Annotations

We currently have two kinds of tag annotations in AGNT, labeled `\tannot` and `\tannot1`. We have the potential to have annotations not only for tags but also for Greek words and lemmas and even English reference glosses (ERGs).

`\tannot` consists of a number of annotations that explicate the tags in nonobvious analyses.

Example, 04-013-005-020 on the tag for the verb form διεξωσμένος. Middle it is. Are we to suppose that some lowly servant wrapped an apron around Jesus for the task? He could perform the servile foot-washing by himself. Did someone else have to dress him for the job? I'd call this a typical verb of grooming, a standard category of middle verbs that are ordinarily reflexives: bathe, dress, shave, etc. I remember first noticing this in the opening gospel accounts of John the Baptist and his attire: ἦν ἐνδεδυμένος with the accusative objects. Yes, lexicographers systematize verbal behavior, but that doesn't mean that "passive" perfects, which are indistinguishable from middle perfects morphologically, automatically preclude the latter. The context of John 13.5 supports a middle interpretation and thus the original formulating of the tag in AGNT is correct as middle!

Example, 04-014-019-013 on the tag for the conjunction form ὅτι. WH and NA (including NA28, GNT3-5) take ὅτι (noted by the comma punctuation preceding) as explaining previous clause, whereas BYZ takes it (colon punctuation preceding) as explaining following clause.

Actually we only have several dozens of this kind of annotation, largely explaining where AGNT analysis stands against other analyses or where there is a difference of analyses among our various databases.

\tannot1 consists of a number of comments found elucidating the tag, as follows.

a. Strict Morphology

Example, 01-001-001-006 on the tag N-GM-S for the Greek form Δαυῖδ. This gives the strict morphology for the Greek form as simply N, for clearly the noun is indeclinable. What the AGNT tags gives as underlined in N-GM-S must be ascertained from context.

Example, 04-015-025-010 on the tag NPGM3P for the Greek form αὐτῶν. This gives the strict morphology for the Greek form as simply NPG -S, for the form itself does not uniquely determine the gender (whether masculine, feminine, or neuter), which must be determined from context. That is, what is underlined in NPGM3P is not strictly part of the analyzed morphology of αὐτῶν.

Example, 01-002-004-016 on the (traditional AGNT verbal) tag VIPP--3S for the Greek form γεννᾶται. This word form is traditionally parsed as passive and fits into the set of present, imperfect, perfect and pluperfect tenses having middle and passive meaning. But in fact its form is uniquely middle and so we give the strict morphology as VIPM--3S, present, middle indicative, coextensive with the innovating AGNT verbal tag for the same form.

b. Second Systems

Example, 01-002-005-003 on the tag VIAA--3P for the Greek form εἶπεν. The AGNT annotation at this reference reads, 2nd Aorist (with 1st Aorist ending), whereas for the Byzantine Textform it merely reads, 2nd Aorist.

c. Imperative Status

Example, 01-002-008-007 on the tag VPAONM2P for the Greek participle πορευθέντες. Formerly AGNT marked participles possibly taken as imperatives with an R in the second slot. When we decided to return all participles to having P in their second slot, we transferred the information once contained in the replaced R (formerly VRAONM2P) by “taken as imperative” into the field \tannot1.

d. AGNT Appendix Discussion

AGNT comes with a fifty-two page appendix explaining what was behind our various analytical choices of tags. Frequently we are asked why we gave a certain tag at a given reference. Most of those questions are in fact answered in the appendix. But we all know that instructions are ignored when we come to assemble something. To speak to the need for some users to have a ready explanation of the tag in question, we have added pointers to AGNT appendix discussion at some 30,000 places in our AGNT databases.

Example, 17-003-002-001 on the tag APCAM-S for the Greek pronoun μηδένα, the reader is given the coding “AA 4.2,” which tells him that there is a discussion of our tagging of pronouns in the AGNT appendix at section 4.2.

Example, 06-013-009-004 on the tag VIFA--2S^VMAA--2S for the Greek verb μοιχεύσεις, the reader is given the coding AA 3.3, 3.6, *3.7.1 (3.71), **5.2par2 as locations in the appendix where any questions he has about the form he is reading are likely discussed. First, 3.3 discusses complex tags with the connector ^. Second, 3.6 discusses the order of individual units in complex tags. Third, at 3.7.1 (alternately in revised AGNT, 3.71) there is a discussion of

“future used as imperative.” Finally, at 5.2, paragraph 2 there is additional helpful discussion. (* indicates the most important discussion as we evaluate it; ** the second most important discussion).

We are still thankful to Samuel Pflederer, who did much of the work on \tannot1 in 2013 before leaving to do Bible translation in Mozambique.

Related to this discussion, here are two notes: a. depending on which version of AGNT you have (if you have a version of AGNT at all), there may be some discrepancy between the content of \tannot1 in your database and in our masters. That is because we are both expanding our coverage in \tannot1 and tightening our analysis of some elements of it. Further, b. if you are interested in such details as have just been presented and would like to volunteer three to five hours (on average) weekly to helping us further this annotation, we have some work just waiting for you. Please contact us at your convenience.

Milestones

The AGNT project has gone forward on the contribution of more than forty scholars that have volunteered their expertise over the decades. Our first volunteer was **John Werner**, beginning back in 1976. He worked thirty-eight years with us until he requested to have his status changed from active volunteer to retired volunteer, and still gladly offers his input on a piecemeal basis.

We are happy to acknowledge that on Monday, September 28, John celebrates his ninetieth birthday. Not fully retired, John is working with his daughter Beth to revise his three-volume *Greek: A Programmed Primer* for the present century. They are currently working in volume three and hope soon to be able to release the database for integration into an interactive primer for Greek students, of which we always want more.

Congratulations, John.

Another long-term volunteer with the AGNT project has been **Carl Conrad**. The recently released innovative verbal tags for voice have been his major contribution (including the ANLEX appendices treating the subject), for which he endured my ignorance of the finer details of Greek for some fifteen years. Carl recently told me that he is eighty-six.

Thank you, gentlemen scholars of combined academic contributions of more than 120 years.



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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